

The Love of God in 3-D Part 8

Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 9-24-17

It is clear that what the Bible says about the love of God is more complex and nuanced than what is allowed by mere sloganeering. To sum up: Christian faithfulness entails our responsibility to grow in our grasp of what it means to confess that God is love. – D.A. Carson

Unbelief in the Love of God

The natural man does not believe what the Bible reveals about the God of love. It sees contradictions that disprove this love (hell, suffering of the righteous, starving children, wicked escaping judgment, etc). This is the world we live in and this is the natural attitude of our 'flesh.'

Why Does the Love of God Matter? – 1 John 4:7-16; Luke 6:27-36; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

- God is truly known when we see Him as being love.
- God loves us before we love God.
- Jesus came to reveal the love of God.
- Jesus came to restore us to God so we could enjoy His love forever.
- Our love for God flows from knowing and believing His love for us.
- Our love for others flows from knowing and believing God's love for us.
- Our love for others is to be a reflection of His love for us and others.

10 Facets of the 'Love of God' Diamond:

- God is love (what He is, not simply what He does). – 1 John 4:8; Psalm 145:17
- The Father loves the Son (reason for creation and redemption). – John 5:20; Matthew 3:17
- God loves all His creation (mercies over all). – Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16
- God loves all mankind (common grace). – Matthew 5:44-45; Deuteronomy 10:18
- God loves unbelievers (free offer of the gospel). – John 3:14-16; Ezekiel 33:11
- God loves His people (the Church). - Ephesians 5:25, 28-30; 1 John 3:1; Jeremiah 32:40-41; Isaiah 62:4-5; Zephaniah 3:17; Romans 8:37-39
- God loves national Israel (irrevocable calling). – Hosea 3:1; Romans 11:28-29
- God's love is not 'flat' (the same for everyone). – Romans 9:13; Malachi 1:1-3; Genesis 33:8-9; Deuteronomy 2:5, 21-22; 23:7-8; Joshua 24:4; Hebrews 11:20
- God's love includes God's holy and just hate/wrath against sin and sinners for those who are not reconciled to Him. – Romans 12:9; Psalm 136:10; Deuteronomy 28:63; 2 Chronicles 36:15-16

Living to Please God?

We all know of extreme examples of Christians living for their pleasure, not to please God. Should we think that God's delight in them is the same as His delight in every other believer?

God loves (is delighted by) the obedient.

- The perverse in heart are an abomination to the Lord, But the blameless in *their* walk are His delight. – Proverbs 11:20
- For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face. – Psalm 11:7
- The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother. – Proverbs 10:1
- A foolish son is a grief to his father And bitterness to her who bore him. – Proverbs 17:25
- And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. – Hebrews 13:16
- Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. – Ephesians 4:30
- ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” – John 14:21
- Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. – 2 Corinthians 5:9
- John 14:23; Proverbs 11:1; 12:22; 15:9; Psalm 18:20; Proverbs 23:24; 10:1; 17:25; Psalm 104:34; Matthew 3:17; John 8:29; Ephesians 5:10; Colossians 1:10; Colossians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Hebrews 11:5, 6; 13:21; 1 John 3:22

Does God delight in some of his children more than others?

‘I think there is a good deal of confusion about this, because of an unbiblical overplay or overextension of the doctrine of justification. That is, drawing out inferences from justification that the Bible does not draw like: Since God sees me in Christ and his perfect righteousness as his child, therefore he sees all his children the same with the same emotional response to each one because each one is perfect in Christ. Now that, I say, is an unbiblical overextension, overplay of the doctrine of justification. It needs to be corrected by Scripture instead of logic. God does not have the same emotional response to all his children. What the imputation of the righteousness of Christ means is that God does not see my sin as any longer condemning me. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. My sins are all forgiven. And the perfection that God’s standards call for are met. And I will never come into condemnation. That is what justification means. That does not mean that God does not see my sin and my obedience and feel differently about each one. God is pleased with my obedience and he is grieved by my sin. That is abundantly clear in the language of the New Testament letters. Ephesians 4:30. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. Or positively: Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Or 1 Thessalonians four: I wrote to you how you ought to walk and to please God. These are justified people who please God more or less. So the answer to Landon’s question: Does God delight in some of his children more than others is yes. And he delights in you some days more than he delights in you other days. And we should heed Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians five: Try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Ephesians 5:10. That is, try to discern what delights the Lord so you can be as fully delightful to him as possible. – John Piper