

## The Characteristics Of The Love Of God (2)

### Introduction

A. Love is; an action. It is primarily a decision to recognize another person as a person, give them rightful place in our life and do the right thing by them.

B. God loves us. This is an action whereby He recognizes us as the person that we are, gives us the rightful place in His plan and wants to take His rightful place in our lives, and He does the right thing by us.

#### I. The Love of God is Spiritual in Origin, Galatians 5:22.

But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ....

Observation: Due to the Fall of Man and our sin we have lost the ability to understand and experience God's love, to love Him, and to love other people and ourselves. One facet of the Holy Spirit's ministry is to help us to understand and to experience the love of God. This love is of a spiritual nature.

#### II. The Love of God is Great in Mercy, Ephesians 2:4.

But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us.

Observation: It would be correct to say that God's love is great in every conceivable way. In this verse Paul is reminding us that His love is great in mercy. Because we are sinners mercy is what we need. God's love is an action of bestowing or relating to us in the mercy of compassion, forgiveness, gentleness and forbearance.

#### III. The Love of God is Incomprehensible in Knowledge, Ephesians 3:19.

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Observation: This verse teaches us that the love of God extends beyond any definition, is not bounded by our limited understanding, and is not exhausted by our failures.

#### IV. The Love of God is Protective in Covering, I Thessalonians 5:8.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for an helmet the hope of salvation.

Observation: To understand and to receive the love of God with its many provisions of grace will bring a protection into the life of the Christian. This will be a practice of the truth. When we fail to believe God, we practice error, and become very vulnerable to the enemy.

#### V. The Love of God is Purposeful in Design, Hebrews 12:6.

For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.

Observation: God, in His love, does not allow us to go through life without growth and maturity. We are too important to Him to be permitted to live without testings and trials.

VI. The Love of God is Instructive in Character, I John 3:1.

Behold, what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.

Observation: This verse exhorts us to consider the type of love which would make it possible for such sinners that we ar® to be declared to be the sons of God. We must use such words as "redemptive", "forgiving", "justifying", and "comforting" to match such love.

VII. The Love of God is Sacrificial in Action, I John 4:9,10.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us. because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation (sacrifice) for our sins.

Observation: The way Jesus Christ gave Himself as our sacrifice on the cross is the supreme example of what God's love is all about. The action of Jesus Christ suffering my death and hell defines love.

VIII. The Love of God is Motivating in Example, I John 4:11.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Observation: When one comes to a true understanding of the love of God he will be changed by that truth to look upon himself and other people in a new way. This will cause us to confess and forsake our grudges, our bitterness, our spiteful way of living and our manipulating of people.

IX. The Love of God is Perfective in Assurance, I John 4:17.

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of Judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world!

Observation: Jesus Christ died as our Representative. This was the provision of God's love. When we understand this we realize that we have a relationship with God in Christ our Representative. (as He is so are we). This brings a maturity to our love and the assurance of confidence as we contemplate the holy judgment of God.

X. The Love of God is Cleansing in Clarity, I John 4:18.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Observation: To know that God loves us will rid us of fear. This is a kind of cleansing that all of us need. Knowing how God has loved us and has provided for us will set us free from fear.

XI. The Love of God is Primary in Sequence, I John 4:19.

We love Him, because He first loved us.

Observation: All that we have seen of the love of God is here traced back to God's choice to bestow His love and provision upon us. All of the benefits of His mercy and grace are all due to His loving choice. This should lead us to continual thanksgiving.