

## The Characteristics Of The Love Of God

### Introduction

A. God is absolute in Truth, Love and Holiness. A part of what this means is that God's love is never to be separated from His truth or holiness. It is always a holy love, a love in truth that He brings to us.

B. That God would choose to express His love toward us, the sinners that we are, is beyond the scope of our wildest imagination. We have turned away from Him, we have transgressed His law, we have cooperated with Satan, we have failed to do the will of God - and yet, God has chosen to love us.

C. Love is an action. **As** we observe this action in the Bible we can gain valuable insights into the meaning of the love of God.

#### I. The Love of God is Everlasting in Time, Jeremiah 31:3.

The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Observation: This verse reminds us that the love which God has chosen to bestow upon us will never diminish. It is difficult to accept this great truth of His love for us. As sinners we often doubt His love. We are here comforted by God and given assurance that He loves us.

#### II. The Love of God is Persevering in Forgiveness, Hosea 3:1.

Then said the Lord unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the lord toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love flagons of wine.

Observation: The prophet Hosea married Gomer. She proved unfaithful to him and became known as an immoral woman. Here Hosea is instructed by God to go find her and love her again. He and his wife are used as an object lesson of the relationship between God and Israel. Israel had sinned and was like an unfaithful wife. God still loved His people and His love was persevering in forgiveness.

#### III. The Love of God is Immeasurable in Extent, John 15:9.

As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you, continue ye in My love.

Observation: God the Father's love for His Son, Jesus Christ, is without any measure. Each of the facets and dimensions of that love would be completely unlimited. The love of Jesus Christ for us is of the same nature. Whatever description we would give to this love would be insufficient.

#### IV. The Love of God is Infinite in Definition, John 17:23.

I in them and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.

Observation: Here we are taught that God the Father loves us as He loves His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The only term we could give to this type of love is "infinite". God wants us to know that He loves us like this and He wants the non-Christian world to know that.

V. The Love of God is Evidential in Proof, Romans 5:8.

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Observation: God's love is an action. Perhaps the greatest deed His love ever produced would be that day when He gave up His life for us and died our death. This is presented in the Bible as an evidence that He does love us. God has proven His love to us.

VI. The Love of God is Permanent in Duration, Romans 8:38,39.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Observation: In this section of Romans Paul has been describing the benefits of salvation. Here he reminds us that all of this grows out of the love of God. By stating that nothing can separate us from the love of God he shows that the believer will not only be loved forever, but that he will possess all the benefits of salvation forever. We have been given "all spiritual blessings" permanently.

VIII. The Love of God is Transforming in Effect, II Corinthians 5:14.

For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead . . . .

Observation: To correctly understand something of the love of God will lead a person to look at himself, other people and life itself in a new way. Since God in love has forgiven me - how can I hold a grudge against anyone? Since God in love has died to set me free from sin - how can I go on sinning? Since God in love has made it possible for me to live in truth, love and holiness - how can I count these unimportant? God's love will transform us - if we will be honest.

IX. The Love of God is Personal in Intimacy, Galatians 2:20,

I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Observation: The Apostle Paul here instructs us in a great truth about God's love. It is the fact that God loves us as persons - In the most individual manner possible. It is correct to say that Jesus Christ came into the world and died for me - as a person. He had me in mind in His death.

X. The Love of God is Supportive in Strength, Galatians 5:6.

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love.

Observation: The Galatians, in trying to live the best Christian life possible, had been led into false teaching. They had been taught that they would be more successful if they would obey the Jewish religious rules of that day. Paul wrote this book to point out their error and to show them that understanding and responding to the love of God would "avail". Practicing the love of God will bring strength to all areas of our life