

The Personal and Practical Meaning of God's Love

Introduction

- A. Many individuals cannot enter into the experience of God's love. One reason may be a failure to understand the meaning of love. Or it may be that the person has been wounded and is afraid to enter into the personal relationship that love is all about.
- B. It may be helpful to meditate on the following explanations regarding love — and to repeat the important points over and over again — making a personal application.

I. A Provisional Definition of the Love of God. (Mai. 1:2)

- A. In His love God recognizes us as a person.
- B. In His love God gives us rightful place in His life and will.
- C. In His love God will always do what is right by us. He seeks to become sacrificially involved in our life for our good.

II. God in His Love makes an Important Distinction. (John 13:1)

- A. God distinguished between who we are and what we do.
- B. God loves us unconditionally as a person while He may not be pleased with what we do.
- C. We cannot earn the love of God by our behavior.
- D. It is important to be honest about our behavior — and lay it aside as we respond to God as a person.

III. God in His Love Likes Us — and Envoys Us. (Is. 54:5; 62:5)

- A. The love of God is highly personal and affectionate.
- B. We are more than pardoned criminals. We are adopted sons of God — adopted because God loves us.
- C. Repeat to yourself daily, "God likes me."

IV. God in His Love Has Given us Promises.

- A. God has promised never to leave us. (Heb. 13:5,6)
- B. God has promised to supply our needs. (II Cor. 9:8; Phil. 4:19)
- C. God has promised to take everything in our life and work it for our good — if we let Him. (Rom. 8:28,29)

Victor M. Matthews