

- I. Session 61: The Love of God Part 3: God's Love within the Trinity
- a. Purpose: In this session we shall explore the attribute of the love of God within the Trinity members themselves as taught in the New Testament and also draw implication for the Christian life as a result of our study.
 - b. The Dilemma about God's love and God's Aseity
 - i. Remember God's aseity. That is, God is independent from needs of his creation and creatures.
 1. "10 *"For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. 11 "I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. 12 "If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains."* (Psalm 50:10-12)
 - a. Note the allusion that God own His creation and creatures in **verses 10-11**.
 - b. The implication is stated in **verse 12**: Because all things are His, He does not need to depend upon us human creatures.
 - c. Even the Jewish religious sacrifices is not something God ultimately needs for Himself in **verses 8-9**.
 2. *"Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine."* (Job 41:11)
 - a. This is God speaking, answering Job.
 - b. God owns everything and owes no one anything!
 - ii. Yet the nature of love is that it is focused upon others as we have seen in the previous two sessions.
 - iii. **Can God truly be independent of creatures and still be a God of love?**
Yes! If we understand the love of God within the members of the Trinity for the other member of the Trinity!
 - c. The Father's Love for the Son
 - i. *"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand."* (John 3:35)
 1. Note here the statement *"The Father loves the Son."*
 2. This verse also tells us that what the Father's love for the Son means the Father *"has given all things into His hand."*
 - ii. *"and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17)*
 1. In the context this is the baptism of Jesus.
 2. Who is the one speaking behind the voice?
 - a. Note the voice said *"This is My beloved Son"*
 - b. The Son here is in reference to Jesus.
 - c. So this is God the Father speaking.
 3. The Father calls Jesus *"My beloved Son."*
 4. What does the love of the Son means? The second half of the verse quotes the Father saying *"in whom I am well-pleased."* God the Father is pleased with the Son Jesus Christ.

- iii. *“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”.”* (Matthew 17:5)
 - 1. In the context this is the transfiguration of Jesus.
 - 2. Again who is the one speaking behind the voice?
 - a. Note the voice said *“This is My beloved Son”*
 - b. The Son here is in reference to Jesus.
 - c. So this is God the Father speaking.
 - 3. Again the Father calls Jesus *“My beloved Son.”*
 - 4. Again the Father goes on to say *“with whom I am well-pleased”*
 - 5. However the Father says something new in light of this truth: *“listen to Him!”*
 - 6. Notice there response was one of fear in **verse 6**.
- iv. *“Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him,”* (Matthew 12:18)
 - 1. **Matthew 12:18** is a quotation from **Isaiah 42:1**.
 - 2. In context the Jews have been resisting Jesus and this verse is cited to explain the Messianic “Servant” going with the good news to the Gentiles.
 - 3. Notice the “Servant” here is being applied to Jesus.
 - 4. Yet in speaking of the “Servant,” or Jesus, God call Him *“My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased;”*
 - 5. This explains why Jesus is called *“My Beloved”* in the previous Matthew verses we have seen.
 - 6. Since Jesus is beloved by the Father, the verse has God saying *“I will put My Spirit upon Him”*
 - 7. The fact the Spirit empowered Jesus during His ministry is evidence that God the Father loves Him.
- v. *“He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ”* (Mark 12:6)
 - 1. This is a parable Jesus told illustrating the Jewish’ rebellion against God’s prophets in the Old Testament and now the Messiah.
 - 2. Since the Son refers to Jesus, we see that the *“beloved son”* is Jesus and therefore the owner represents God the Father.
- vi. *“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.”* (John 15:9)
 - 1. Here Jesus says that *“the Father has loved Me...”*
 - 2. Jesus here describes that this love of the Father makes the Son Himself love the disciples.
 - 3. Therefore Jesus gives this command: *“abide in My love.”*
- d. The Son’s Love for the Father
 - i. *“but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.”* (John 14:31)
 - 1. The context is this is the last night before Christ’s death.
 - 2. Here Jesus said *“so that the world may know that I love the Father”* which presupposes that Jesus loves the Father.

3. How did Jesus show His love for the Father in a way that the world knows? *“I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.”*
4. So all the Son’s obedience shows His love for the Father!
- ii. *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” (John 15:10)*
 1. Jesus here wants the disciples to abide in His love.
 2. He compares the disciples abiding in His love with “; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”
- e. Closer look at **John 5:16-20**¹
 - i. The context is Jesus healing a man by a pool in Jerusalem by saying to him *“Get up, pick up your pallet and walk” (v.8)* and this happened on the Sabbath (v.9) which was the pretense for the Jewish religious leaders persecuting Jesus (v.16)
 - ii. Jesus’ response to the Jews is curious: *“But He answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.’” (John 5:17)*
 1. Jesus says His Father is working even during the Sabbath, this clearly isn’t just a human father that Jesus had in mind.
 2. Jesus says that because His Father is working, He too must work.
 3. Jesus actually is saying He’s a Unique Son, because for most Jewish and Gentile believers, its not that we are like God the Father exactly....
 - iii. Jewish response? *“For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” (John 5:18)*
 1. The Jews response was murderous: *“For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him”*
 2. Two reasons:
 - a. *“because He not only was breaking the Sabbath”*
 - b. *“but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”*
 3. The Jews understood Jesus was making Himself divine in His claim.
 - iv. Jesus’ response maintains the same line of defense: *“Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.”” (John 5:19)*
 1. Jesus is saying that His work on the Sabbath follows that of God the Father who also work on the Sabbath.
 2. Notice also Jesus saying that He must do things exactly *“in like manner”* as the Father.
 - v. Jesus’ response also assert that the Father would approve of what Jesus is doing because He loves the Son: *“For the Father loves the Son, and shows*

¹ This section on John 5:16-20 is based upon Don Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1999), 30-36.

Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.” (John 5:20)

1. Clearly “*the Father loves the Son.*”
2. Since the Father loves the Son the Father “*shows Him all things that He Himself is doing;*”
3. It’s an incident of “Father like Son.” The Father wants the Son to imitate Him.

f. Implication

- i. Be humbled: Know that God didn’t have to love us in order for Him to be loving. His love for us is undeserved!
- ii. If we understand how much God the Father loves the Son, only then do we understand the extent of God’s love for the world in **John 3:16**; have you thank God for loving us that much by providing salvation?
- iii. As we have seen in the transfiguration in **Matthew 17:5**, if we know God the Father loves the Son, do you listen to the Son Jesus Christ and obey Him?
- iv. The love of God the Father for the Son is a love that must be in us in how we love Jesus too! Note the following: “*and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.*” (**John 17:26**)
- v. The love of God the Father for the Son is a love that must be in us as a way of making unity possible! Note the following: “*I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected [a]in unity, so that the world may [b]know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*” (**John 17:23**)