

**“. . . but that He Loved Us and Sent His Son . . .**

**1 John 4: 7-21**

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**March 22, 2015**

**Introduction: Things act like their nature**

**I. God's Nature**

- a. **“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 Jn 4:8**
- b. **“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love . . .” 1 Jn. 4: 16**
- c. **One attribute of God that gets no pushback is that God is love.**
- d. **This statement presupposes the entirety of the Biblical sweep of revelation about Almighty God.**
  - i. **For instance:**
- e. **It is entirely inappropriate to see this characterization of God as nullifying His justice and Holy Righteousness.**
- f. **It is not possible to argue that a God who is love cannot also be a God who condemns and punishes the disobedient**
  - i. **“In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His so as a propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4: 10**
    1. **Propitiation is from a Latin word meaning to appease. The use of the word presupposes that God hates sin – and that his disposition towards sin is wrath.**
    2. **He, Himself, absorbed the loss and gave Himself over to wrath for our benefit**
    3. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son.”**
    4. **God Himself covered our sin debt at the price of the suffering and death of His own dear son.**
- g. **What is it to say that God is love?**
  - i. **God's love is an exercise of His goodness:**
    1. **Louis Berkhof – “Goodness is that perfection in God which prompts Him to deal bountifully and Kindly with all His creatures.”**
    2. **“He who did not spare His own son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things.”**
      - a. **Rom 8:32**
    3. **Goodness elicits the best in others – as does love (1 Cor 13: 4)**
  - ii. **God's love is an exercise of His goodness toward individual sinners**
    1. **God had you in mind when He went to the cross – He did not die for mankind monolithically – for a nameless, faceless humanity – but for you personally and particularly – His love was specific**
    2. **“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you brothers, beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved.”**

**II. Take Away**

- a. **Everything acts according to its nature**
  - b. **We act according to our new nature**

**2 Corinthians 5: 17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**
- **Believe the bad news/good news**
  - **Love in increasing measure**