

The 3-D Love of God – Part 1

The Delightful, Difficult, Decisive Doctrine of the Love of God

1 John 4:7-21; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 8-6-17

1. The Command to Love (7-8)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

- Command: Be continually loving one another
- Reason #1: Love comes from God.
- Reason #2: Love is evidence that we are Christians.

⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- Reason #3: God is love and the transformation of knowing God, as He is essentially, is love. God loves for His sake, out of His character as love, and can do no other.

2. The Definition of Love (9-11)

⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- Reason #4: God has loved us in Christ, though we did not deserve it.

3. The Evidence of God (12-13)

¹² No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

- Reason #5: When we love like Jesus, God is revealed to the world.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

- Reason #6: By love, we know that the Spirit is in us, because the fruit of the Spirit is love.

4. The Evidence of Love (14-16)

¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

- Reason #7: Faith in Jesus as our Savior always produces this kind of love because the cross is the revelation of God's love for us.
- Reason #8: Since God can do no other than love, then those in fellowship with God will be loving people.

5. The Impact of Love (17-21)

¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

- Reason #9: Confidence in God's love for us gives us confidence in view of God's judgment and frees us to treat others freely (without condemnation).

¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

- Reason #10: Confidence in God's love frees us from fear and frees us to love without any fear.

¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us.

- Reason #11: God's love loves first and does not wait to be loved.

²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

- Reason #12: The evidence we love God is that we love people with the love of Christ.

²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. – 1 John 4:7-21

- Reason #13: We should love one another because the God who loves us commands it, therefore it must be for our joy.

God Loves Because God is Love and So Then Should We Love

How do I know that God/Jesus loves me or anyone else? Because God is God! God is love and He can do no other without denying Himself! God is love and God loves because God is God and yet, how that love manifests itself to various kinds of people must be distinguished. We can't flatten out the love of God so that it is the same for everyone anymore than we should flatten out the love of a man so that his love for his wife and children is no different than his love for all women and all children!

Memory Verse: Psalm 103:8