

Greater Works Christian Church

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The Love of God

Intro: We often speak of the Love of God (as we will do today), but we should never be surprised about God's Love. God cannot help but love us, and His love is complete and perfect.

1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:16

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

In both of these verses we find that "God is Love," so because of this God cannot be, or do, anything but love. Everything He does is because He is Love.

1.) God loved us even when we didn't deserve it

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4, 5

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Human beings seem to love others with conditions. We will share our hearts with those that "line-up" with what we want and what we desire. God loves us no matter what.

When mankind was completely lost and without hope (because of sin, God sent His Son Jesus to be the penalty for sin; the Just for the unjust. God, through Christ, loved us even though we were separated from Him by sin. We all deserved hell, but Jesus came and sacrificed Himself on our behalf, saving us from eternal damnation, and thus proving His love for you and I.

2.) God Draws us with His Love

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Hosea 11:4

I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped *and* fed them.

God didn't stop when He sent Jesus. He did everything to draw us to Himself and the love that He has to offer.

You and I are not here by chance. You and I are here with each other and in His presence because He has drawn us to Himself.

It is amazing that a being as powerful as God, who spoke the universe into existence, loves us this much. He has drawn you to Himself to have a relationship with Him. He has opened Himself up to you and I to come to Him and know Him intimately.

3.) God has More for us than we can Imagine**1 Corinthians 2:9**

But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

The Bible describes so many awesome things that are ours through our relationship with God.

Psalms 103:2-5

- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:
- 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,
- 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
- 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle'

Some of the benefits of serving God:

- Forgiveness of Sin
- Healing of our Diseases
- Redemption from Destruction
- Being Crowned with Lovingkindness and Tender Mercy
- Being Satisfied with Good Things
- New Strength and Vitality

These, and more, are ours NOT because we have earned them, but because He loves us.

Conclusion: We Love Him because He first Loved us

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

God has poured out His love upon us. He has done all that He can do to show us His love and His loving character. Now with open arms He welcomes us to come to Him.

After all the extraordinary love that God has shown us it is easy to love Him. We can say with John, "We love Him because He first loved us."