

God is Love

I. Introduction

- A. The inspired apostle John said that “God is love.” Consider some things Scripture teaches that are connected to this theme. **1 John 4:8; Hymns for Worship, Song 412**

II. What Agape Love Is

- A. The word translated love in the above passage is *agape* (see *Strong G25/G26*). This love, which is the love typically spoken of in the NT, is deeper than an emotional attachment. It is a deliberate choice to value someone highly and thereby give something in response. **Romans 13:9-10; John 15:13**

III. How God’s Love Is Shown

- A. No greater demonstration of *agape* can be imagined than what God has done through His Son. The fact that God sent His Son to die for the unmerited salvation of people who have sinned against Him is the greatest expression of love that has ever been shown. **1 John 4:9-10; Romans 5:6-8**

IV. Who God Loves

- A. This gift God has extended in love makes salvation possible for *anyone* who trusts and obeys Him. God is willing to forgive even the “chief” of sinners. Moreover, He is not a “respector of persons” whose love is limited by prejudices. God exemplifies love for *all*. **1 Timothy 2:6, 3-4; Matthew 5:44; James 2:8-9**

V. God Rejoices in the Truth

- A. God’s love for all does not mean that God just wants us to be happy living however we please. Instead, His *genuine* love means that He does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth. **1 Corinthians 13:6; 1 Peter 3:12; Mark 10:21-22**

VI. God is Longsuffering

- A. God also shows His love by how longsuffering He is toward mankind. For instance, the patience He has shown by not yet sending His Son to judge the world in spite of how grossly the world has mistreated Him exemplifies His love. **1 Corinthians 13:4; 2 Peter 3:9**

VII. God’s Love: Our Example

- A. While God’s love should be appreciated, it should also be emulated in the way we treat God and others. Nothing we do for Him or our fellow man will be as great as what He’s done for us, but we can still do what we should to follow His example of love. **1 John 4:19**

VIII. God’s Love Should Motivate Love for Him

- A. In consideration of what God has done for us, we have every reason to love *Him*. Such will be shown by keeping His commands. **Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Hymns for Worship, Song 340; 1 John 5:3**

IX. God’s Love Should Motivate Love for Others

- A. Love for God produces love for others. **1 John 4:21**
B. This too is motivated by God’s love for us. If God is willing to love us, we should be willing to love others. Our need to love others is really a need to value souls the way God does. **1 John 4:7, 11**
C. Such love involves developing the selflessness and care for others that God the Son perfectly exemplified. **Philippians 2:4-5**
D. Moreover, such love is proven through actions that seek others’ highest good, as is the case with God and Christ’s love for us. **1 John 3:16-18**