

GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN

John 1:29; 17:23-24; 1 John 4:7-21

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: "How can God be a God of love when there's so much evil going on in this world" and other statements questioning the love of God are often heard. It takes one who has received, experienced the actual love of God to know without a doubt that God is a God of love and that love is far beyond a person's mind to ever understand. When one considers what God has done to redeem mankind back to Himself through His Son Jesus, it causes one to wonder why God would do such a thing for man is evil from head to toe, yet God did. **"...Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..." (1 John 3:1).** Jesus prayed a prayer of intercessory for those who had and would believe in Him and without question Jesus loves everyone and without question God loves those who love His Son.

I. GOD LOVES THOSE WHO LOVE JESUS AS HE, HIMSELF, LOVES HIS SON, JESUS

1. There is much similarity in the cause of God's love for Jesus and His love for believers in Jesus.
 - God loves those who believe in His Son, Jesus.
 - God's love is not some sort of blanket but is focused in His Son.
 - Apart from His Son, God's love is a consuming fire.
 - Until one is united to Jesus by his/her faith, there is no reason to think that God loves him/her.
 - Faith in Jesus is the result of God's eternal love, but until one trusts God's Son, he/she will experience only the wrath of God.
 - **John 3:36; Ephesians 2:3**
2. God loves those who love Jesus for Jesus' sake.
 - God accepts one's faith, worship, works and person ONLY because of His Son, Jesus and because believers are in Jesus Christ because of what Jesus did for them.
3. God loves believers in Jesus for the same reason that He loves His Son as man's Mediator.
 - God does not love believers in His Son for the same reason that He loves His Son.
 - God's love for Jesus Christ as man's Mediator is based upon Jesus' perfect obedience unto God as man's Mediator.
 - **John 10:14-17**
 - God's love for those who believe in His Son is free, yet at the same time, fully deserved.
 - God's love, mercy, grace and salvation come to those who believe in Jesus because of Jesus' obedience as man's substitute.
 - How could the Holy God, the just God, love such vile, sinful, unworthy people? God loves those who believe in His Son, for His Son's sake.
 - God loves those who believe in His son AS (the same way) He loves His Son.
 - God loves those who have been renewed, reborn, remade, through their belief in His Son for they are reborn into the image of Jesus, God's Son.
 - God loves those who believe in Jesus freely.
 - God loves those who believe in Jesus tenderly and affectionately.
 - God's love for those who believe in Jesus is unchangeable, immutable.
 - The effects and fruits of God's love to Jesus and to those who believe in Jesus are alike.
 - Previously unknown knowledge is made known to believers.
 - Spiritual gifts are bestowed upon believers.
 - Strength and protection is given to those who believe in Jesus.
 - Everything the believer does for God is accepted and pleasing to God.
 - God accepts one's poor, sin-stained obedience.
 - God accepts one's efforts at pleasing Him.

- As Jesus was honored and highly exalted by God, the Father as the object of His love, those who believe in Jesus, God's Son, are to be equally honored and exalted.
 - **Romans 12:1-2**
- What would a person give in order to have the assurance of love from God?
 - One can do nothing! One must rest in God's love and trust God's Son, Jesus.

II. GOD LOVES THOSE WHO LOVE JESUS, GOD'S SON WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE

1. God's love for those who love His Son did not begin a short time ago. God's love for those who love His Son does not begin with one's love for Jesus: **"...We love Him because He first loved us..."** (**1 John 4:19**)
 - God's love for those who believe in His Son goes all the way back to before creation of the first man and is the reason for one being called by the Holy Spirit and redeemed through Jesus Christ.
 - Salvation is an act of God's eternal love. (**Ephesians 1:40**)
 - Grace was established in eternity because of God's everlasting love.
 - Bringing one into relationship with Jesus is the work of God's eternal love.
2. God's love for those who love His Son Jesus, will never cease.
 - Salvation for those who believe in Jesus is built upon the immutable foundation of God's everlasting love.
 - People change, but there are no changes in God's love.
 - People's love is sometimes hot and cold, but God's love is always the same.
 - Even when believers sin, God's love does not change.
 - God does bring chastisement because of sin, but His love never changes. His chastisements are evidences of His love.
 - God's love toward those who love His Son is everlasting and never changes to any degree for any reason.
3. God's love for those who love His Son gives.
 - The gifts of God's free and everlasting love are beyond one's ability to grasp.
 - The Lord God has given Himself because of His great, everlasting.
 - The gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus to suffer and dies as man's substitute was and is the great expression of His love.
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit to call, regenerate those who believe in Jesus seals the believer thus expressing God's everlasting love to those who believe in His Son.
4. God's love is distinctive.
 - The Word of God clearly speaks of God's love being sovereign, distinctive and distinguishing.
 - **Isaiah 43:1-5**
 - **Romans 8:29**
 - **Romans 9:11-24**
 - God loves His people delightfully.
 - God delights, takes pleasure in loving those who love His Son, even when He appears to be displeased with some.
 - God loves those who love His Son as He loves His Son.
5. God's love for those who love His Son is more than a wish or desire in His heart to save them.
 - Those who are the objects of God's love shall be saved because they are the objects of His love.
 - God's love is sovereign (**Romans 9:16-18**)
 - God's love is sacrificial (**1 John 3:16**)
 - God's love is saving (**Ezekiel 37:27**)
 - God's love is steadfast (**John 13:1**)
 - God's love is for sinners (**John 3:14-18**)

CONCLUSION:

1. Think about it! God loved those who would love His Son even before the world began.
2. Think about it! The benefits from God, the Father, to those who love His Son.
3. Think about it! God's Son, Jesus, came to this earth, lived among mankind, preached, taught, ministered, healed, all to show what God, the Father, was like. ***"...If you have seen me, you have seen God, the Father..."***
4. There is no love like that which Jesus and God, the Father have for those who believe in Jesus Christ.
5. Those who love God's Son, Jesus Christ, are known by God, the Father as His Children.
6. ARE YOU ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN?