

GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS SON AND HIS SON'S LOVE FOR OTHERS (US)

John 15:9-18

Introduction: People can be very stubborn and hard headed and sometimes it seems their minds just cannot be changed, then again, sometimes even the most stubborn, hard headed person's mind can be changed. Logic and reason often just are not sufficient to change minds and obviously God's laws don't change some minds either. However there is something that can change the stubborn and hard headed mind of just about anybody, melting that cold, hard heart and that is the four letter word - LOVE. That's what the Gospel is all about, the love of God and the love of His Son, Jesus and their love for people - us.

- *"...For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto Him which died for them, and rose again..." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)*

I. JUST WHAT KIND OF LOVE DOES JESUS HAVE FOR PEOPLE - US?

1. Christ's love for people is without beginning.

- There never was a time when God, the Father, first began to love His Son.
- God loved His Son before Jesus came to earth on His mission.
 - *"...And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased..." (Matthew 3:17)*
 - *"...No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him..." (John 1:18)*
 - *"...Father, I will that they also, whom thou has given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou has given me; thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world..." (John 17:24)*
- There never was a time when Jesus Christ first began to love people (us).
 - When a person believes in Jesus, then is Jesus' love really seen.
 - Faith in Jesus is the result of His love for that person (us).
 - *"...The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee..." (Jeremiah 31:3)*
 - *"...Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you..." (John 15:16)*

2. Christ's love for people (us) is without measure.

- The Father's love for His Son, Jesus, was unbounded as He is one with His Son in nature, and therefore affection.
 - He has shown the greatness of His love to Him, in the gifts bestowed upon Him.
 - He is in constant cooperation with Him. *(John 10:30; 3:35; 5:19-20)*
- Jesus Christ's love to people (us) is also boundless and has produced most astonishing acts of kindness towards people (us).
 - *"...Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it..." (Ephesians 5:25)*

3. Christ's love for people (us) is unchanging.
 - The Father's love for His Son, Jesus, was unchangeable even though it seems to have been withdrawn for a bit as Jesus was on the cross. (*Matthew 27:46*), seeming not to answer Jesus' prayers (*Luke 22:42-44*), nevertheless, God always heard Jesus' prayers and loved Him always. (*John 9:42*).
 - Jesus Christ's love for people (us) is also unchanging.
 - There are times when He seems to have withdrawn His love and attention, but His chastisements are signs of His love.
 - ***"...For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and scorgeth every son whom He receiveth...{***
 - Jesus hates sin and will correct His people till they put it away, but He will not withdraw His love from them. ***"...He will never leave them..."***
4. Christ's love for people (us) is without end.
 - The Father's love to His Son, Jesus, will continue to endure forever. He has given His Son a pledge of this in His exaltation to heaven.
 - Jesus Christ's love for people (us) is also everlasting for He knows no change of mind with respect to what He has bestowed upon us (believers).
 - ***"...For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance..."***
 - Whomever God loves, He continues to love.
 - ***"...Now before the feast of the passover when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of the world unto the Father, having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end..."***
(*John 13:1*)
 - ***"...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?....For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present, nor things to come...shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord..."***
(*Romans 9:35-39*)

II. WHAT CAN BE DONE IN RETURN FOR CHRIST'S GREAT LOVE FOR PEOPLE (US)?

1. It is not only a privilege to do something in return for all that Jesus Christ has done, is doing and will do for those who believe in Him, but it is a DUTY.
2. It is the believer's (us) duty to love Jesus Christ
 - The obligation to do so is greatly increased by Jesus' great love for us (people).
 - Let nothing come between one's love for the Lord Jesus.
3. It is the believer's (us) duty to continue in love to Jesus Christ.
 - ***"...And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold..."*** (*Matthew 24:12*)
 - Let us (believers) cleave to the Lord with full purpose of heart.
4. It is the believer's (us) duty to abound in all acts and offices of love to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - In secret, let us tell Jesus about all our troubles but in public, let us confess, honor and obey Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. God loves His Son, Jesus Christ without beginning, without measure, without change and without end.
2. Jesus Christ loves people (us) without beginning, without measure, without change and without end.
3. God has proven His love for His Son countless times in countless ways.
4. Jesus Christ has proven His love for people (us) by what He came to do and what He did on the cross which enabled people (us) to be restored to oneness with God, the Father as well as indwelling with His Holy Spirit, the lives of those who believe in Him and giving to them eternal life.
5. What can the believer possible do for God, the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in return for all the love they have shown to him/her (us)?
 - We can love others as "They" (God, the Father and Jesus Christ) have loved us.
 - Tell others about the unspeakable, un-understandable love that has been shown to us that is waiting to be given to them as well.
6. God the Father loved His Son, Jesus, God's Son, loves us, let us therefore love others as we are being loved.