

## GOD'S LOVE IS DIFFERENT

Jeremiah 31:3

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There is an unconscious mistake that most people make when considering God's love. Many compare God's love to the love of their own earthly father or to someone they are familiar with, even to their own idea of love. People's love is preferential, biased, mixed, temporary and even turned off. When told that God loves them, automatically one's definition of God's love is just like theirs. It is very hard to see that God loves everyone, no matter how bad or sinful they are or have been. God's love is very different from OUR love.

### I. WHAT GOD'S LOVE IS LIKE

1. God loves Himself first because His love is pure, blameless and perfect.
  - God is God, uncreated, owing nothing to any and therefore is the source of all the love there is.
  - God's love is as He is, forever, pure and perfect.
2. God's love is holy, blameless and it is the love that the Heavenly Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit have for one another, eternal, infinite, without measure, bottomless, boundless and perfect.
  - Everything and everyone else that God loves, He loves the same.
3. When God looks at the creation, He loves it because it reveals some of Himself.
  - When God looks at the sun, the moon, the stars, lakes, rivers, mountains and seas, He loves them because His power and wisdom gave them existence.
  - When God looks at the holy angels around His throne, He loves them because they came from Him.
  - When God considers people, men and women, He loves them as the fallen of His own image.
    - *Genesis 1:26*
4. People, human beings are made in the image of God, but are now sick unto death because of sin which came in at the Garden of Eden and contaminated the whole human race, made in the image of God.
  - When sin is removed from a person, there is the image of God again.
  - Jesus Christ was the true image of God because He was a human being, a man, without sin.
5. God does not love the SIN in the sinful person for God cannot love an unholy thing, yet God loves sinful people - why?

### II. GOD LOVES FOR HIS OWN SAKE

1. God loves everyone for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who is the second person of the Godhead, the living Word who became flesh and dwelt among people.
  - God sees in Jesus Christ what everyone would have been, perfect humanity.
2. God loves the lost human race not by excusing their sins, not by an attitude of carelessness, not by any willingness on His part to become morally lax, BUT He once stood and said,
  - *"...Let us make man in OUR image..."*

- What parent ever ceases to love their children, even when that child grows up, breaks the law, drinks, gambles, steals, cheats, even murders? The parent does not love one single thing about that child that caused him/her to be so bad, yet there is still love for the child for he/she is of the parent's own image/body.
3. God looks down at the human race and sees the awful sin each person is guilty of for nothing is hid from Him.
    - God loves each human being because He sees in each person the image of what Adam and Ever were and what Jesus Christ is and loves each human being, personally, redemptively for Jesus' sake.
    - True, man's sins have violated and lost one every right he/she ever had to be loved by God, but God sees each person as being from the one He created out of the dust of the earth, made in God's own image and was not ashamed of him and now God sees an image of the man who went to the cross and died, suspended between heaven and earth - His only begotten Son.
  4. God loves people for other than who and what they are to one another.

### **III. GOD LOVES THE LOST**

1. No matter what a person has done, God loves everyone because there is something of Himself in every human being and that His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ became a human being, yet without sin.
2. God grieves over the lost today because people can still pray and believe and hope and dream and aspire, reminding Himself of His Son who died on the cross.
  - When all that is gone, however, there will be no longer any image, no response, no reception of His love when lost people die and go to the place (hell) God prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels.
  - Sadly, there will come a day when the lost will no longer be loved by God for God loves everything for His own sake and when a person has sold him/herself out to sin and the awful power of iniquity has made him/her a devil and not a person that can be loved, God will no longer love that person.
3. It's hard for people to understand that God does not love them because they are trying to be good.
  - God loves people because He sees in them some trace of that glory that once walked in the Garden of Eden.
  - Though lost and ruined by Adam's sinfulness, God still loves each person for His own sake, not any other reason.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God's love is unique and He loves for His own sake, no other reason.
2. God draws everyone toward Himself, He wants every person to turn around, throw themselves on His mercy, not bringing human goodness but come confessing, "Father, I have sinned..." (Luke 15:21)
3. Would YOU not let God have your entire being and make it as He wants it to be?