

## GOD'S WONDERFUL LOVE

John 3:16

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Which part of the "world" does God love? It is the human race which has been the recipient of God's amazing, wonderful love. Believing in God's Son, Jesus, gives one everlasting, eternal life which is the opposite of perishing. It is an everlasting living with God in heaven, an everlasting existence combined with everlasting happiness. To perish is the opposite of all that a believer in the Lord Jesus receives because of God's love.

### I. THE OBJECT OF GOD'S LOVE IS THE WORLD

1. God does not love a part of mankind more than another part.
  - God does not love believers in Jesus more than those who do not.
  - God loves all mankind and all mankind is sinful and therefore enemies to God.
  - There is no reason why some part of sinful man should be loved more or less than another part.
2. The only love that God can give is a universal love to all mankind. No person is left out.

### II. THE NATURE OF GOD'S LOVE

1. It is not complacency or a special delight in mankind for there is nothing in the character of mankind that could allow God to love them or take delight in their character.
  - God's love could not be because of the good qualities of mankind.
2. It is not an emotional love, for emotion is but an involuntary state of mind, brought on by the passions.
3. It is not a fondness for a particular kind of people.
  - It is not some unreasonable, temporary state of mind.
  - It is not some deep affection brought on by some attraction to a person.
4. It is the only kind of love that would be important to people, mankind.
  - It was a reasonable love.
  - It was a benevolent, good-will love.
  - It was an unselfish kind of love.
5. It is a disinterested love.
  - God does not love mankind just to please Himself.
  - God does good because God is God and that is what He is like.
6. It is a love of amazing strength.
  - Here is a world of people at war with God and there stands God's Son, Jesus, who is ready to die for the enemies of His Father, Almighty God.
    - Mankind had rebelled against God and God's government (ways).
    - God's law demanded that their rebellion be punished.
  - What parent would allow his only son to step in and help bring peace between his father and the enemy by giving his own life?
  - God willingly gave up His Son, Jesus, for the good of mankind.
    - God knew what it would cost.
      - The trials, the affliction, the persecution, the poverty, the agony, the carrying of the cross, the agonies on the cross, the cries of pain and His Son's cry, "***My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?***"
    - God's love for mankind was so great that He overcame all and freely gave up His Son for every human being.
7. It is a love for enemies, not friends.
  - God gave His Son, Jesus to die for a race of sinners, not just one or two, but the entire human race.

8. It is a forbearing love.
  - God refused to deny, refrain from giving up His Son for the sake of sinful mankind.
9. It is a universal love.
  - It was not just for the human race that experienced God's love but throughout all the universe God's love has been extended (heaven and all that exists).
10. It is a holy love.
  - God's love hates sin but God loves mankind who is guilty of sin.
  - God pardons sinners but only through what His Son has done to make it all possible.

### **III. THE REASON FOR GOD'S LOVE**

1. God's love sought to save those who deserved to die and He did this by giving His only begotten Son to die for those who deserved to die because of sin.
2. God's merciful disposition, His love caused Him to do what He did in showing mercy.
3. God's law had been disobeyed and the universe was watching to see what God would do (heavens).
  - By taking upon Himself the nature of man and being both God and man, He was able to stand before the whole universe.
  - By taking upon Himself the nature of sinful man and at the same time obeying the law and suffering the penalty for sinful man, the penalty would be paid and God's law still be upheld.
  - God could pardon sinners and still yet honor the law.
  - Through His Son, Jesus Christ, God did just that.
  - Jesus stands as the representative of mankind yet had no sin in Himself and the whole human race is summed up in Him, making God able to pardon the guilty.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Many cannot conceive how God can love sinners.
  - People tend to judge God by their own thoughts and concepts of what is good, bad, right, wrong.
  - People do not love their enemies and this kind of love is a stranger to them.
  - One cannot grasp God's kind of love until he/she can love as God, love his/her enemies, no matter what.
2. People think they have to do something to deserve, to earn God's love.
  - They want to feel that they deserve to be saved.
3. It was for sinners just like YOU, ME, your enemies that Jesus died for.
  - Jesus Christ died for YOU!
  - YOU must believe and there is nothing you can do to deserve God's love but Jesus died for people just like YOU.
4. God loves every sinner and Jesus died for every sinner, every one undeserving. God's love is nothing like OUR love. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.