

## THE THREE LOVES OF GOD

**John 3:16; Ephesians 5:25; Galatians 2:20**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Jesus was always getting into trouble with the religious leaders for they were very strict in their views and thought that any other view than their own was wrong. Often Jesus would say, "...You have heard it said.....but I say unto you...." and He would give a more detailed and clearer explanation of whatever it was He was speaking about. The Jewish people in Jesus' day, especially the religious leaders, thought that if a person had not been born a Jew then that person was inferior and not to be considered as equals with the Jews. Jesus taught that God loved everyone and finally His disciples came to understand the breadth of God's love and then wrote about the expanse of God's love. God's love generally covers three areas.

### I. GOD'S LOVE IS UNIVERSAL

#### 1. *John 3:16*

2. It would be very easy for God to love His created world.

- The beauty of the skies.
- The beauty of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and streams.
- The beauty of the forests, mountains, hills, valleys, even the deserts.
- The beauty of the animal life, birds, fish, all that inhabit the waters and the land.
- The gentle warm breezes.
- The beautiful snows.

3. It is another thing for God to love a teeming world of sinful men and women, however.

- The whole world "*...lieth in the evil one..*"
  - The whole world of mankind is submerged under a tide of evil.
- It is one thing to love the world of nature but to love those whose hearts are filled with evil is indeed an astonishing thing.
- In spite of the wickedness and evilness of mankind, God still loved mankind enough to send His only begotten Son to live among mankind and to even die for them so that they might be restored to their original relationship with God as was with Adam and Eve.

4. Unless God had given His only begotten Son, mankind would have been forever doomed and damned.

- Yet, God gave His unspeakable Gift that has revealed just how much He loves mankind, and that is every single human being that has or ever will be born.
- Whoever questions the love of God has not yet received God's amazing gift of eternal life that comes from one's belief in God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

### II. GOD'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH

#### 1. *Ephesians 5:25*

2. The Church is loved by the Lord Jesus Christ (God), but why?

- Remember the story of the prodigal son?
  - The father always loved that son, even when his son left home and went out into the world to get involved with all sorts of evil and wicked people and things.
  - The father always looked for that son to come back home and watched every day for him to return home.

- The Church is not some sort of organization, it is not Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, or Catholic.
  - The Church is the great company of human beings who, like the prodigal son, came home.
    - People who could not be at ease among the wicked and evilness of the world.
    - People who were drawn by need, hunger, tired wanting to find peace with God.
    - People who had been in the far country but traveled back to God who is their "home."
  - The son was still loved by his father, even when he was in the far country but as long as he was in the far country, his father couldn't put a ring on his finger, a fine robe on him, and in order to have these gifts from his father, the son had to "come back home."
3. Having come home, like the prodigal son, the Church, not the family, is God's second love.
    - All those in God's Church have been brought back from their far land by the blood of Jesus Christ and God has shown His love by forgiving and restoring them to their rightful place as God's Children, as God's Family.
    - Are YOU one of those wayward children of God who are still in some far country, living without God's presence, living in sin, still separated from God?
  4. God's second love is for His Church, those who have come back home.

### III. GOD'S LOVE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL PERSON

1. *Galatians 2:20*
2. God loves each individual person.
  - Nobody loves like God.
  - Nobody can love everybody with the same kind, the same equality of one's love for his/her own child/children.
  - Nobody can be as generous and caring toward his/her fellow friends and neighbors, even strangers as he/she feels toward his/her own flesh and blood, his/her own child/children.
  - The wonder of God's love is that He loves each individual equally and in such a manner that it is a love that is loved as if there is nobody else in the whole world except that one single person.
3. God sent His only begotten Son into the world because He loved the world and gave His richest gift to all who would believe and accept it.
  - God gave His heart to the thief on the cross hanging at His side.
  - God loved the world, God gave.
  - God loves the Church and God gave.
4. Often people are tempted to doubt the love of God for a single, non important, insignificant, little me.
  - The gentle voice of God comes to each person and says, "**...He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father...**"

### CONCLUSION:

1. "God is love!"
2. God loves His created world and heavens, God loves His Church, God loves each single person.
3. God loves YOU!

