

CONSIDER THE LOVE OF GOD

John 3:16

Introduction: Have you ever tried to explain to someone who is not a Christian how much God loved him/her? Often we don't understand the "how's and why's" of God's love either. Jesus spent some night hours one night helping a very wise man in the scriptures to understand some things about God and how and why God could do what He did. That man was Nicodemus, remember the story? Let's consider some things about the love of God right now.

I. CONSIDER GOD AS A "GIVER"

1. People giving gifts to others is normal and is not considered unusual and everyone needs some help at one time or other, so helping one another out is normal.
2. However, God is totally different. God doesn't need anyone at anytime, ever! Think about it, what could God possibly want or need from any of us?
3. Whether we were here or not, God would still be God!
4. How wonderful God is that He should even recognize that we are here or even consider us.
5. God doesn't owe us anything, yet, God is always giving to us.

II. CONSIDER THE GIFT THAT GOD HAS GIVEN - HIS SON

1. God did not give some creation of His He thought we might could use.
2. God gave to mankind His "co-equal," His own Son.
3. Why would God do that for mankind? Nothing less that God's own Son and what His Son could do for mankind would ever satisfy the debt mankind owed to God.
4. God could have sent thousands of angels or the entire heavenly host of heaven, but they couldn't do what needed to be done for mankind, it took God's own Son, so God gave Him.
5. What in the world is this kind/manner of love? People don't do this kind of thing for anybody.

III. CONSIDER THE MANNER IN WHICH GOD GAVE HIS GIFT

1. God didn't wait for anybody to ask for help, nobody knew that they needed help, but God's love overshadowed mankind. God knew people needed His help.
2. God's love for mankind existed even before man's needs arose. God knew our needs even before we were born. God knows all about every one of us.
3. Take a look around, what are people like? What is the world really like?

4. After giving ourselves and the rest of the world a good looking over, we have to be amazed that God should look upon us at all, especially look at mankind with love.

4. However, God gave His only Son to meet the needs mankind had, to save us.

V. CONSIDER WHY GOD BESTOWED HIS GIFT UPON MANKIND

1. Mankind, us and everyone else, deserves to perish for our sins against God.

2. God, however, determined that we should not perish, even those who were really bad.

3. God determined to restore us to our original inheritance, our original fellowship with Him.

4. God was determined to share all His glory, all He has with us, with mankind.

5. This kind of love is unreasonable, unthinkable, totally unexpected for it is not like us at all.

VI. CONSIDER THE CONDITION IMPOSED BY GOD FOR HIS GREAT GIFT

1. Suppose God would save everybody if He could find 50 or 40 or 30 or 20 or even 10 righteous people. Guess what. We would all still perish for there is none righteous, not even one.

2. Suppose God reinstated us and we would remain saved IF we didn't get into sin again. Who would still be saved?

3. Suppose God said that His Son's righteousness PLUS ours would make us acceptable. We would still perish.

4. Suppose God said He would give us complete salvation when we become WORTHY of it. Once again we would all be found wanting and still perish.

5. All of these thoughts were known by God, so therefore He proposed NONE of them. If anything at all depended upon us, then there would be no hope ever and we'd still perish.

VII. CONSIDER THE EXTENT OF GOD'S OFFER

1. There's not a person on earth who cannot qualify, who cannot be a partaker in God's offer. IF he/she believes in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

2. There are no limitations, ugly, mean, vile, etc., NO exceptions for God's offer.

3. WHOSOEVER believes in God's Son, Jesus Christ, shall not perish.

4. Nothing bars a person from being accepted, IF God's terms are met.

CONCLUSION:

1. How awful is the condemnation of all who reject God's Son, Jesus Christ.
2. How empty the fears of troubled Christians, believers, for God loved them before they became believers in His Son, when they were yet enemies to God, God loved them.
3. How quickly everyone should accept God's wonderful, marvelous Gift.
4. How deeply all of us should be affected by God's love for us and what He has done for us.