

GOD'S FOUR DIMENSIONAL LOVE

Ephesians 3:14-19

Introduction: Contrary to what some Churches think or even teach, God has only ONE Family. Some of His family is already in Heaven with Him and some of us are still here living out our earthly lives. We need to remember that death does not break nor separate God's Family - ever. Our text reveals that God's love, much unlike ours, is immeasurable and surpasses all our knowledge. God's love has four dimensions and is all inclusive.

I. THERE ARE THINGS THAT SEEMINGLY CONTRADICT GOD'S LOVE

1. Nature: Sometimes it is cruel as there are rolling seas at times, then earthquakes, hurricanes and tornados and all of nature seems to be disruptive at times.
2. Human History: The world has always been filled with fears, heartaches, vice, crime, violence and war.
 - People have often wondered where is God and does God even care when all of the bad things happen. Mankind seems to be getting even more vile and vicious.
3. Paul wrote our text from experience with God. All Christians, sooner or later, experience and learn that God's love surpasses all their knowledge and must just shake their heads in awe.
4. God's dimensional love is best revealed in **John 3:16**: "loved"= breadth; "gave"= length; "believeth"= depths; "life"= height.

II. THE BREADTH OF GOD'S LOVE

1. **"God so loved the world..."** a broad expanse.
 - "World," not just the planet or earth or dirt or geography.
 - "World," not just humanity or civilization, or inhabited places.
 - "World," the beautifully ordered, including the stars, the sun, the planets, and all their movements throughout the universe.
2. God didn't love our world in part or pieces or sections or just a few gifted people, but God loved the WHOLE creation, it's burned out stars and depraved, ignorant, sinful humanity.
3. An old time preacher, D.L. Moody met a man in England who wanted to come to the United States and he did. He preached for six weeks on one verse: **John 3:16**
4. The world needs to be told of judgment and damnation but people are already conscious of their weaknesses and sin. They ask, "Does God do anything? Does God say anything, Does God even care?"

5. There is a great old hymn entitled "The Love of God" that describes the greatness of God's love:

"The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell; It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell. The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

"Could we with ink the oceans fill and were the skies of parchment made; Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade. To write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho stretched from sky to sky."

"O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forever more endure, The saints' and angel's song."

III. THE LENGTH OF GOD'S LOVE

1. *"God so loved the world - that He gave His only begotten Son.."*
2. What are the most meaningful treasures in our lives? Of our hearts? Is it a picture of a dead loved one? A lock of hair? A wedding band? All are worth little in dollars, but we value these things greatly for they represent parts of our lives.
3. What father among us who has lost a son would not give anything to have that son back alive?
4. God has given us the universe but His Son is the greatest gift God has ever given for He gave us Himself in His Son.

IV. THE DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE

1. *"...that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish.."*
2. The depth of God's love reaches to the perishing. It's easy to love the adorable, etc. but we react quite differently to those who mistreat us and that reveals the depth of our love.
3. God loves all equally. Could you be a missionary to the "lepers?" If so, that would be God's kind of love. Would you be a missionary to the undesirable?
4. Think of the most depraved person you have ever seen. God loves that person as much as He loves YOU.
5. "In loving kindness Jesus came, my soul in mercy to reclaim; And from the depths of sin and shame, through grace He lifted me. From sinking sand He lifted me, with tender hand He lifted me, from shades of night to plains of light, O praise His name, He lifted me..."
(In Loving-Kindness Jesus Came)

V. THE HEIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE

1. *"...that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life..."*
2. There is a Heaven for God's Family and there will be a Marriage Supper. There will be a new heaven and a new earth, all for God's Family.
3. "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie. I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land; O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land."
(On Jordan's Stormy Banks)
4. Who will come and go with me? God can take us all the way up to heaven.

CONCLUSION:

1. The breadth of God's love includes YOU.
 - The length of God's love sent Jesus to die in YOUR place.
 - The depth of God's love reaches down to YOU.
 - The height of God's love lifts YOU to His Heaven.
2. Our God is God!
3. Will you let God love you as He wants to?