

## MEASURING GOD'S LOVE BY OUR OWN

Jeremiah 31:3

Introduction: Perhaps the greatest mistake of our lives is insisting upon trying to measure God's love by our own standards. We tend to love people for what they **are** therefore many have trouble believing God loves them because of all the bad they have inside, etc. However, God loves everybody, no matter how sinful or bad they may be.

### I. GOD IS THE FOUNTAIN OF ALL THE LOVE THERE IS

1. God must find something of **Himself** there in order that He might love it.

- Nature reveals God's own glory, power, wisdom....The sun, moon, stars, and the world reminds

God of His own wisdom and power that gave the beginning.

- Angels reflect the holiness that comes from God, Himself.

- **God loves that which comes from Himself.**

2. When God considers us - He loves us as the fallen relic of His own image.

- God's Son came to us in the body of a **man**. (*"Let us make man in our own image."*)

- Man, made in God's image is a dying man from the sickness of sin.

- **Extract sin from man and you have the image of God again.**

- Jesus was the true image of God because He had no sin and is what Adam was like before the fall, **and what we would be like if not for sin.**

### II. GOD DOES NOT LOVE ANYTHING THAT IS NOT OF HIMSELF

1. God loves sinners. How? Why?

- God loves sinners for that which He sees in them - His lost and fallen image.

- We are loved of God for the sake of His Holy Son, Jesus.

- **God sees in Jesus what we would have been - perfect humanity.** (Not divine though)

- God never excuses sin, or is careless or lax about our sin. But He loves us because He once said:

*"Let us make man in our image."*

2. Story: A couple have a son - each says he looks/acts like the other, etc. Years pass and the boy becomes a man. But he chooses to become a criminal, cold, cruel, viscous. The father dies before his son is put in prison. The mother knows her son is guilty and must pay for his crimes. She visits him and through the bars she sees her little boy - but a grown up man. Does she love his cruel acts of violence and crime? Does she love his wickedness? NO, she hates them with all her heart. But she sees also her little boy, innocent, the

very image of his father, the man she promised to love till death. How she loves that boy but she does not love a single thing that made him the criminal he was.

3. God looks down at us and sees us in our awful sin.

- God never loves us carelessly, loosely, foolishly or the thought, "I don't care, I'll love them anyway."

- **God loves us because He sees in us the image of what Adam was before the fall and what Jesus Christ is and loves us for Jesus' sake.**

### **III. NO PERSON OUGHT TO THINK THAT HE/SHE DESERVES GOD'S LOVE**

1. Our sins have violated and lost to us every right we ever had to be loved by God.

- God sees that we are of the man who once walked with Him, made in His image in the garden.

- God sees an image of His own Son who went to the cross and died on behalf of sinful man.

2. God loves us from reasons other than who and what we are. Let us therefore humble ourselves before Him. How we ought to thank God for the love that comes to us through the MAN, Jesus Christ.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God does not love us because we try to be good or try to develop good habits, etc.

- God loves us because He sees in us some trace of that glory that once walked in the garden.

- Though lost, ruined by the Fall and on our way to hell, God loves us for His own sake and not for our own sake.

2. **Text....**There is nothing that can stand in the way of God's call - not character, reputation, nothing....

**EXCEPT.....**our own sin.

- God calls us to turn around, throw ourselves on His mercy. Do not come telling God how good you are. Come willing to confess, "**Father, I have sinned.**"

3. Ask God to draw your heart away from all the earth and to tell you that He is your all - your love.