

The Love of God and Loving God!

1. The greatest gift given in all of time and eternity is the gift of the Father giving His only Son. The supreme act of love is by far the plan of God to sacrifice his only Son for all and the obedience of the Son to give His life a ransom in the obedience of love for the Father and in His redeeming love for us.

1 John 4:8-9 *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this **the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.***

2. Love is an action verb describing what love does rather than a defining adjective. In the love chapter of 1 Corinthians thirteen the descriptions given as actions of what love does. The love God has for us is a demonstrated love, He has supremely acted and continues to act.

Romans 5:8 But God **demonstrates** His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. All of creation is eagerly anticipating the unveiling of two events that are described as actions of the love of God that restore everything back to God's original plan for the universe, they are: First, the appearing (unveiling) from heaven of the God/Man Himself as the King and Savior of all!

Titus 3:4-7 *But **when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of **regeneration** and **renewing** of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.***

1. Regeneration: (Lit. Re-Genesis) Restoration; New Renovation; Rebirth

2. Renewal: To be made new and superior in spirit and mind

4. The second part of the Father's perfect plan is the return of Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge of all to receive His resurrected bride and to reign with Him in the restoration (renovation) of all things.

Romans 8:21-22 *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

Acts 3:20-21 *and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of **restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

Matthew 19:28 *So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the **regeneration**, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."*

5. God's ultimate eternal purpose for creation is to provide a family for Himself that includes faithful children for Himself and an equally yoked Bride for Jesus as His eternal companion. God promised to give Jesus an inheritance consisting of a people whom He fully possesses in love.

Psa 2:8 *I (the Father) will give You (Jesus) the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

1. Mandatory obedience: God will cause all creation to obey Jesus (Phil. 2:9-11)

2. Voluntary love: God will raise up people who voluntarily choose to love Him

6. Equally yoked as a bride in love with the Bridegroom: God wants us to love Him with all of our heart and mind because He loves us with all of His heart and mind. Jesus wants us to love Him in the way He loves us.

Matthew 22:37-38 *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the **first and great commandment**.*

7. God's purpose is to select and train a Bride who would be prepared by voluntary love to reign with Jesus. The First Commandment will be in first place in the Church when Jesus returns.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

8. He will supernaturally empower us to love Him this way. It takes "God to love God". The anointing to receive God's love and to return it to Him is the greatest gift the Spirit imparts to us.

Romans 5:5 *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

9. Jesus prayed for His people to be supernaturally empowered to love Him with God's love.

John 17:26 *And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

10. The Father has taken the initiative in loving us first. In response to His pure and revealed love, we must invite Him. He will not force us into a relationship of voluntary love. He waits until we invite Him in the matters of our heart. We must intentionally pursue with Him with diligence. Our greatest attainment is to have a burning and shining heart for God

1 John 4:19 *We love Him, because He first loved us.*

Luke 11:36 *If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light."*

11. God's love is a 4-fold love! This love from God has a 4-fold flow. First there is the love from God. Secondly, the love to God (from us to God) which then overflows to ourselves and then out to others. We long to be loved. Why? We were created that way. You and I were created to be loved and to love.

12. Jesus defined loving God as being deeply rooted in a spirit of obedience (Jn. 14:21; Deut. 6:1-9). There is no such thing as loving God without seeking to obey His Word. Loving God requires more than singing to Him or having sentimental feelings about a "god we make in our image".

John 14:15-23 *15 If you love Me, keep My commandments....21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...23 If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...*

1 John 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*