



What is God Like?
8 of 11
GOD IS LOVE.

Attributes of God - Part 2

ABSOLUTE INFINITY

Infinite in each attribute

ABSOLUTE ETERNITY

God inhabits eternity
Isaiah 57:15

IMMUTABILITY

Unchangeableness of God
James 1:17
Malachi 3:6

TRANSCENDENCE & IMMANENCE

Makes everything outside of Himself

LOVE

1 John 4:8

LIGHT

1 John 1:5

JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER AND RIGHTEOUS

Romans 3:25-26

GOOD

Mark 10:17-18

MERCIFUL

Deuteronomy 4:31
Psalm 136

HOLY & JEALOUS

Joshua 24:19

LONGSUFFERING

Romans 2:4
Exodus 34:6

TRUE

Exodus 34:6
Romans 3:4



Knowing God- HIS LOVE.

Probably no scriptural topic has been the basis of more sermons and essays than the love of God.

A subject of such infinite depth can only be touched on here.

It is extremely difficult to define love, but we shall describe it as the ardent affection which one holds for another which in the case of divine love reaches its highest form.

Love cannot be separated from the personality of God. Although we read that God is merciful and just, we are never told that He IS mercy or justice.

**In Order to Know God We Must Know Love
Among the things of the “divine nature,”
love is paramount. (1 John 4:6-8;)**

“God Is Love.”

**“6. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us;
he who is not from God does not listen to us.**

By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

**“We know how much God loves us,
and we have put our trust in him.**

**God is love, and all who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them.”**

(I John 4:16;)

“God Is Love.”

We cannot know God and not learn to love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13;)

Love is the quality which defines discipleship to the world.

(John 13:34-35;)

34."A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In order to achieve this goal, we begin with God and His infinite love (1 John 4:19;)

“We love, because He first loved us.

We learn from God what it means to love”.

John informs us, **"God is love."** (I John 4:8;)
Note -**This is NOT just a characteristic of God;**
-this is what God is.

When we read in John 3:16 that **"God so loved the world,"**
we conclude that the giving of His Son to save men
was the result, **not just of love, but of overwhelming love.**

Therefore we know that the **extent of His love** is so great
that His actions are motivated by this characteristic.

His love is not influenced as ours "by who or what we are."
Rom 5:8; But **God showed his great love for us**
by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners.**

**" Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God
doesn't show partiality. In every nation he accepts
those who fear Him and do what is right." Acts 10:34-35;**
God's love has no boundaries or restrictions; it is universal.

True Love Is Revealed by God.

The love of God is misunderstood by many.

We have a tendency to equate His love
with the love that we feel for one another:-

**indulgent, changeable, sentimental
affection, emotion, strong or intense liking, etc.**

The dictionary indicates that **these feelings**
which are called **“love”** may be based upon:-

- (1) “personal or family ties.”
- (2) “regard or shared experiences or interests.”
- (3) “sexual desire.”
- (4) “emotional attachment, as for a pet
or treasured object.”
- (5) “enthusiasm.” (e.g. “loves sports”)
- (6) “brotherhood.” (7) “need.”

Knowing God- HIS LOVE.

This misconception makes God's commandments respecting love difficult to understand and even harder to keep.

(Matt 5:43-44; Rom 12:14-21; Luke 6:27-35;)

Some feel that we can do what we like and live as we like because God will allow and overlook many things which He has forbidden.

They say "**God will not send a person to hell because He is a God of love.**"

This is a failure to understand, **the relationship of God's love with His Justice and Mercy.**

**We find a prayer of the apostle Paul
for the church in Ephesus in Eph 3:14-19;**

“When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength through His Holy Spirit.

I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. **May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvellous love.**

And may you have **the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. 19 **May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”****

“God Is Love.”

**"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR and hate your enemy.'
But I say to you, love your enemies and pray
for those who persecute you." Matt 5:43-44;**

**Rom 12:14-21; “14. Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who
rejoice, and weep with those who weep.**

**16. Be of the same mind toward one another;
do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the
lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”**

17. “Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.

Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

18. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **Never take your own revenge**, beloved, 19 but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, **VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.”** says the Lord.

20. **“BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.**

21. **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

Love, as it characterizes God,
is not based upon feelings of affection
or the admiration of superior qualities,
rather it is **rooted only in the desire to do**
what is best for the object of God's love.

God's love for Israel.

(Deuteronomy 7:7-8;)

God's love for man.

(Acts 14:16; Matthew 5:45; Psalms 8:3-9;)

God's love for Israel. Exodus 34:6-7;

“6. He passed in front of Moses and said, "I am the Lord, I am the Lord, the merciful and gracious God.

I am slow to anger and rich in unfailing love & faithfulness

7. I show this unfailing love to many thousands by forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion.

Even so I do not leave sin unpunished, but I punish the children for the sins of their parents to the third and fourth generations."

“8. Moses immediately fell to the ground and worshiped.

9. And he said, "If it is true that I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, then please go with us. Yes, this is an unruly and stubborn people, but please pardon our iniquity and our sins. **Accept us as your own special possession."**

God's love for the church.

(Eph 2:4–6; Titus 3:4–6; 1 John 4:9, 10;
Rom 5:6–8; 2 Cor 8:9, 10; John 3:16;)

God is love. (1 John 4:8)

He is the source of all that truly is love.
Having created us with the capacity for
and the yearning after love
He Himself must be capable of love.

His selfless acts in creation, providence
and redemption are an eternal manifestation
of His loving nature. (1 John 4:10;)

His love for us is the impetus to loving Him.

(1 John 4:19;)

And the basis for our loving Him. (Eph 5:1-2;)

Follow God's example in everything you do,
because you are his dear children.
Live a life filled with love for others, following
the example of Christ, who loved you and
gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins.
And God was pleased, because that sacrifice
was like sweet perfume to him.

His love is the pattern for loving.

Seeing His love for us teaches us how to love others.
(1 John 4:11;)

We learn that love is not an abstract concept,
it is a determination of the heart.

1 John 3:16–18;. “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18.Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

**When we love, His love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:12;
It is in putting His example to work that
we acquire the divine nature which we seek.**

God is the judge of love.

**Loving is not a subjective activity
critiqued by an ambiguous standard.**

(Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:18–21;)

Love is ... (1 Corinthians 13;)

Love can be perfected and ready to enter judgment.

(1 John 4:17–21;)

**“By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may
have confidence in the day of judgment;
because as He is, so also are we in this world.
There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out
fear, because fear involves punishment,
and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”**

“We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also”.

Since God Is Love, I Will...

**Make every effort to perfect myself
as the Father in Heaven is perfect.**

(Matthew 5:45–48;)

Free myself from being a respecter of persons.

(Rom 2:11; Eph 6:9; Col 3:25; Jam 2:1; 1 Pet 1:17;)

Many have said **that to know the love of God**, as a human being here on earth, **is indeed heaven upon earth**. Paul's prayer was that **every single believer** under heaven **would know, by the Spirit of revelation and knowledge**, the **great love of God towards every believer**. I wonder **do we know it** and understand it today?

The poet said of Christ's Birth:-

'Oh vast surprise, that wondrous incarnation!
Creation's God new-born in Adam's race,
To bleed for sin and bring us free salvation.
A wonder, dwarfing matter, time and space.'

Amazing Grace! We are a **sinner** before a Holy God, and understand we are **under condemnation** for our sin and understand **that despite our sin God Loves us enough to send His Son to die for us!**

We could say of a man or a woman that we know who is particularly compassionate:-

'He, or she, is kindness itself' -

'They are goodness', or, 'they are love itself.'

We are not saying that that man or that woman is literally, exactly love or kindness or goodness, but it describes their nature, it describes their attitude and who they are.

When we say from the word of God that **'God is love'**, it's **not a denial of all His other attributes**, or what He is as a person.

It doesn't mean that God is love and everything else is excepted and excluded in His great nature.

Knowing God- HIS LOVE.

It should thrill our soul and fill us with hope and challenge our life style and motivate us to Love ourself and others as we have never loved before.

When we say 'God is love', it's not a denial of all His other attributes. **God is love**, not 'He is like love'. 'God is love' is not all or complete truth about God.

Some in the world interpret it, that '**Love is God, for God is love**'. The thing that **we call 'love'**, the affection or the action of the will that shows that we are concerned and have compassion upon others, some have interpreted to mean:-

'Love is God.'

so they worship love itself. Beatles "all you need is Love."

What the word of God is saying is that **this great attribute of love**, is **more than simply an attribute**, it is a **declaration of God's nature**. **God is love!** It is a **summing up** of what God is to every believer, to every person who has come into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through His death.

We can say: 'To me, God is love.'

We have been saying that many of God's attributes are like **a great arch** that cover all of His attributes, **all of the things about Him**.

God's love is like an arch over every other of His operations. That the love of God is the nature that makes possible everything that He is and does and has.

Because He has no beginning, **His Love has no beginning**; **because** He is transcendent and He is out of all limits, **this love has no limits**; and **because** He is holy, He is spotless and He is pure, **this love is pure**, **this love is reliable**, **this love is perfect because God is**.

It would be foolish, as we look at '**God is love**', to forget that the word of God says more about God than 'God is love'.

The Scriptures teach that **God is Spirit**, John 4:24; that is His nature, He is made up of Spirit, He doesn't have a body.

1 John 1:5; says: '**God is light**' - so God is not just love, but **God is Spirit** and **God is light**.

He is without a body, He is Spirit, you cannot contain Him.

He is invisible, He is everywhere, He is Spirit – He has no parts, in other words you can't divorce His love from His faithfulness, **you can't divorce His love from His justice and His wrath and His holiness.**

He is without parts! He is without passion, there's no fluctuation within God, there's no excesses, there's no weakness in Him, **He is absolutely perfect!**

**God is Spirit. God is light, again we find that in 1 John, John was saying to his readers:-
'You've moved away from the moral life that ought to be yours as a child of God.'**

That's what had happened, they'd slipped up and they were living in sin - that's why you find, John continually mentioning how the child of God **ought not to continually live in sin.**

What John is saying, 'God is light', is 'God is holy, God is perfect' - he says: 'God is light and in him is no darkness at all'. Purity, holiness, perfection, impeccability!

**He challenges us to be the best that we can be.
WE ARE TO BE A REFLECTION OF GOD.
His light to a lost and dying world.**

This does not mean that the love of God is a weak, insipid, indulgent, sickly sentiment, and that He will put up with anything. NO!

He challenges us, He even empowers us.
He is there for us in and through every experience in life.
He tells us it won't be easy but
He has confidence in us that we can do it.
we Can be Like Him we can reflect Him in many ways.

In Rom 5:5; “And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, He has given us the Holy Spirit to FILL OUR HEARTS with His love.”

NOT how dearly **WE LOVE GOD**
rather how dearly **GOD LOVES US.**

FILL OUR HEARTS –FILL- It means 'tipped up',
it means 'poured in', it's the word that was used of the Spirit
at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came and baptised
the Apostles. - and what Paul is saying here is
that love is poured in like that into the child of God.

He challenges us to be the best that we can be
WE ARE TO BE A REFLECTION OF GOD
And His light to a lost and dying world.

Someone said Christianity has **NOT** been tried
and found wanting.

It has been tried and found too hard.

Many will say what is the point I can never be
that good that perfect that pure that innocent.

The scriptures say God knows our frame. / He knows
what we are like. / He knows what we are capable off.

/ He knows the mess we were in before
we came to Him through Christ.

He knows our struggles.

And Paul cries out **HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR**

ME. If God LOVED us while we were sinners

**If He sent His Son to die for us while we laughed and
mocked Him. Is He going to love us any less
now that we are His children.**

One translation puts it: **'God's love has flooded our inmost hearts'** - it is a free flow of a large quantity of God's love, it is an inundation of God's goodness towards His children.

In the Greek it is in the **perfect tense**, and that simply means that it was settled at one point in time, **it's a completed action. We are in the good of it now.**

It's like the valley that has been **filled with water one day** in a great storm, but **for the rest of the years it stays full.** The love of God has been **shed abroad (Filled)** in our hearts.

The love of God! has that been **tipped up into our heart?** Have we **caught a glimpse** of the Love of God? Have we **allowed it to be infused** into our being? Have we **opened our hearts and minds** to God? **Allowing Him to inundate us with His love?**

The love God is a gracious love.

That's the nature of love itself, **grace and mercy!**
If you read history you find that Greek and Roman gods were very like men, in fact many of them were eroticised by human woman, many of them fought together like men, brawling in the street – that's in mythology of course.

But this God that we have, **He is so above us, so beyond us** that the Holy Spirit through Paul the great apostle had to almost invent another word to describe His great love.

A word to take LOVE to a new dimension.

The word '**agape**', for this is **above human love, above the love of family, filial love and friendship, and all kind of sexual love** between a man and a woman - **this is the TRANSCENDENT love of God.**

God, in His grace, has come to us. Paul could say:-
“In my flesh, in me, dwells no good thing”.

While God **hates sin**, it was **love for the sinner** that motivated Him to send His son to die on the cross.

Ephesians 2:4; 2Thess. 2:16; Titus 3:4; 1 John 4:9-10;

Jesus died for us "**because He loves us.**" (Rev. 1:5;)

God's love is seen in the O.T. "by **His patience with Israel**; only an Infinite God could continue to love a people who constantly rejected Him.

"The Lord did not choose you and lavish his love on you because you were larger or greater than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations!

It was simply because the Lord loves you, and because He was keeping the oath He had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the Lord rescued you with such amazing power from your slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt.

Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations and constantly loves those who love Him and obey His commands."

Deut 7:7-9;

It is a gracious love, for the objects of God's love were the objects of His wrath - that's the amazing thing!

We tend to love people for who they are, if they're related to us, or what they're like, if they're good-looking, or if they're nice to us, we will show love toward them.

But this is a gracious love, this is an agape love, this is a love above all loves that He shows toward us in that while we were yet sinners... WHAT A LOVE!

Does that not **thrill us**? Does that not **move us**?
Motivate us!. That the **wrath of God** abided
upon our heads, **but now** the **grace of God**
has been tipped up into our hearts!

What a love! The unlovely, the unlovable, have been
given **free, unearned, unmerited grace**, - nothing
in you, nothing in me that could attract God to us,
in fact everything in us that would repel,
anything holy, anything righteous, anything good.

**God's love is contrasted with
that of human beings in that,
it is always intelligent.**

Sometimes we are moved by blind passion or silly infatuation. Not so with God. His infinite wisdom always governs His love, and that love therefore always works for our best interests.

The objects of God's love are many.

He of course loves Christ.

Jesus told his disciples" as the father hath loved me, so have I loved you." (John 15:9;)

God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Here is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (I John 4:9-10;)

Those who **accept Christ are adopted into the family of God.** "Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." (I John 3:1;)

Still another expression of divine love is that of repeated forgiveness. **It was this which caused Hezekiah to sing,**

"But you have in love for my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption:-
for you have cast all my sins behind my back."
(Isaiah 38:17;)

Each time the Christian sins, and **with a penitent heart asks forgiveness** he may be assured that God will grant it.

Why should God bother with me when there are days that even I know I am not worth it, **Because God is a Lover.** His LOVE motivates HIS GRACE God's free, unmerited grace poured into our hearts, the heart of a degenerate, sinner.

As the poet said:

**'What was there in me that could merit esteem,
Or give the Creator delight?'**
Twas even so Father, I ever must sing,
Because it seemed good in Thy sight.'

What a gracious God, what a gracious love is this
That is why John could say: **'We love Him because
He first loved us', that's the order of it, don't
put it round the other way!** If He hadn't loved us
in His grace, we would have never loved Him!
But He poured His grace upon us in Jesus.

While we were sinners He loved and gave.

**He loved us before we knew Him –
before we had one ounce of love for Him.**

**He loved us then. He can't love us more than
He does- **isn't that wonderful?** He can't love us more
than He does. **We can't earn it.** All we can do
is learn more and more about the love of God,
His gracious love.**

**His love is eternal,
"I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting
love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.**

God is transcendent, you know what that means,
we learn that **He is above everything.**-

If God is above everything.

His love's above everything too!

It's beyond us, Yet may we strive to fathom
its breadth, its length, its depth and its great height.

We realise that no one,
even the greatest teaching of any preacher:-

Could ever express **the great love of God.**

The highest mountain cannot reach its heights,
the deepest ocean cannot delve its depths,
the furthest crevice in space is not far enough
for the love of God! It's higher than the heavens,
it's deeper than the sea,

We can never exhaust His love!

He loved us before there was even an us! Think of that - imagine, when only God in His foreknowledge knew there would be a you, God loved you!

He has chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:

**God's love is gracious and eternal it is also Infinite
God is infinite in wisdom, in power and in love.'
In other words, this love is unlimited.**

This is what is important for us to know!

The love of God in Christ, laid His life down for us!

**That is the way God has displayed,
and demonstrated His love,
it is the expression of it,
the representation of it.**

2 Cor 5:19;

**“For God was in Christ,
reconciling the world to Himself,
no longer counting people's
sins against them.”**

**This is the wonderful message
He has given us to tell others.**

**That's what the incarnation is about,
that God was in Christ. He is God,
God of God, Light of Light.**

**“Since God did not spare even His own Son but
gave Him up for us all, won't God, who gave us
Christ, also give us everything else?” Rom 8:32:**

**Have you ever seen in films of the early 1900's
a mother nursing her baby. She's tired as she nurses
and feeds it, the little baby is plump and
she looks gaunt and thin, but she's not complaining.**

She doesn't whinge, in fact she looks down and gazes with eyes shining with happiness and pride at the little child that all her energies, **all her love is being poured into.**

She's laying her life down for that child.

The word of God says greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friend.

The greatest love of all, for every good love gives to its own, and Christ gave to us. Christ gave His blood for us, He poured it out an offering for sin there at Calvary!

The cross is the crowning proof of God's love.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, **but to save it.”**

John 3:16-17;

This great love. If we would only, allow the Love of God to be tipped and poured and inundate our hearts. If we should doubt the love of God, just look at Calvary. Look at it and see that form of one hanging on the tree.

God’s love is an unchanging love, for our God is unchanging. John 13:1; “Now before the feast of the Passover, **when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own** which were in the world, **he loved them unto the end.**”**

He loved them unto the end'.

There's very little love like that, isn't there?

Love that will love no matter what the cost.

Love that will love no matter what way we turn out,
or **no matter** what we do, or **no matter** what we might
say, right into the face of the one that's loving us.

Jesus Loved Even Judas right to the end.

“Forever His, forever only His. Who the Lord and me
shall part? With what peace, and rest, and bliss
Jesus fills the loving heart.

Heaven and earth may fade and flee,
Firstborn light in gloom decline. But while
God and I shall be, I am His and He is mine!”

He lives for evermore, I am His and He is mine!

Is He ours? Do we know that unchanging love?

I don't mean do we know about it,
but rather have we experienced it in our life?

God's love is a disciplining love. When we see
what the bible says we see that it speaks
of disciplining our children / true love disciplines.

And we find with God that those who do not want to be
with Him He allows to depart from Him He calls this hell,
Our rejection of Him, separates us for all eternity.

Even those who are His, He disciplines:-

“For **whom the Lord loves He chastens,**
and scourges every son whom he receives.”

God will love us unto the end, -

It cannot be compared to human love.

It's without passion, there's no fits –

He doesn't love us one day and hate us the next day.

His love doesn't go way down and then come up again to a peak - **that's not the love of God!**

It has **no moods**, it has **no fluctuations** - it's not a fancy of His hope, that He wishes He could love you.

The word of God says: **'His love is as strong as death'**, it says: **'Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.'** Nothing can separate it from those who have embraced it, isn't that what Romans says?

“What shall separate us from the love of God', what will do it? We are more than conquerors in that love. Death, life, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, height, depth, any other creature shall not be able to separate us **from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.”**

**Some people think that the Love of God
'is an antidote for all trouble,'
that's far from the truth!**

What can be true about what we are going through today, is that God is honing us, God is refining us, God is making us better and eventually **we will become pure as gold?**

God disciplines us, He wants us to be conformed to the image of His Son - do we believe this?

Do we believe Romans 8:28; “that all things work together for good to them that love God.”

We may go through heartache, we may go through trial, God will be with us every step of the way God loves us, and God wants us to be like Him.

It's not pleasant, but it's profitable, It stops believers being condemned by the world - and **there's times in our lives when God needs to iron out some of the wrinkles and the creases in us, isn't that right?**

Leeman Strauss said that “when his mother chastened him **she said it would hurt her more, and she had tears in her eyes.**”

And God is not some kind of sadistic overlord in heaven, but He knows what is best for us.

“In all their suffering He also suffered, He personally rescued them. In His love and mercy He redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years.” Isa 63:9;

“And we know that **all that happens to us is working for our good** if we love God and are fitting into His plans.” Living Bible Rom 8:28;

“And we know that God causes **everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

New Living Translation Romans 8:28

We know that **all things work together for good** {Other ancient authorities read [God makes **all things work together for good**], or [in all things **God works for good**]} for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

“We are well aware that **God works with those who love him**, those who have been called in accordance with his purpose, **and turns everything to their good.**” New Jerusalem with Apocrypha Romans 8:28;

The context is set earlier in 8:22;

“ For we know that the **whole of Creation is groaning** together in the pains of childbirth until this hour.”

Weymouth's New Testament

“For we know that **the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together** until now.”

New American Standard

The world is Groaning in Pain.

We are groaning in pain.

Waiting for what God is going to do.

**The twin towers fall and the world Groans!
The Middle East fights and the world Groans!**

**We go into a burns unit or cancer ward
and the world Groans!**

**We go into counseling centre's for child abuse
and the world Groans!**

We go into divorce courts and the world Groans!

**Romans tells us that as the world is groaning
it is giving birth to something,
that even this suffering is meaningful!**

BECAUSE GOD IS DOING SOMETHING GOD IS WORKING!

The verse does not say God is doing everything it is saying. That **whatever** happens and **where ever** it happens **whatever** kind of mess it ends up in?

Whatever happens God will crawl inside it and work with it!!!

He will do something, make something useful out of what ever happens!

Some times we feel like we cannot win. Paul is telling us, because God will work in and through all things whatever mess we find our selves in.

Nothing can stand in the way of God reconciling all things to Himself.

We have to believe in the reality that **God is Love.**

He is taking us somewhere,

moulding us and making us challenging us,

with the **ministry of reconciliation,**

because **we are ambassadors for Christ.**

17. “What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same any more, for the old life is gone. **A new life has begun!”**

18. All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did.

And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him.

19. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. **This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others.”**

20. “We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, ‘Be reconciled to God!’

21. For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ”
2 Cor 5:17-21;

Two men are sitting in a bar drinking / watching tv /
There is a news bulletin /
someone is going to jump of a ledge to commit suicide.
One man says “bet you £10.00 he jumps” the other says
“I will take the bet No Way will he jump from there.”

Just as he says that the man jumps so the man reaches out
to give the other £10.00, The first man says I cannot take
your money **it was a repeat news item** I saw it earlier.

**The second man says OH! take the money
I saw it earlier too,
but I did not think he would jump again.**

Knowing how things will turn out with God in control ought to CHANGE the way we think and act.

Paul says we ought to be a people of HOPE patiently waiting for God to work things out.

Because our God is a God of LOVE. Who always does what is right in every circumstance?

16. “We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in Him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

17. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world.”

18. **“Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear.** If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us. 19. **We love each other as a result of his loving us first.”** 1 John 4;

You know the child that gets lost in the supermarket, it gets into a frenzy and into a panic, it's distressed, it is looking around, and it feels vulnerable and it feels danger - **and that is the way so many people feel today.**

Our society is wrecked by fear and by anxiety and distress and worry, and even those who belong to the Lord at times live like that! And as long as we are willing to live in the world, and to be satisfied standing, trembling, in the arms of chance and this world system - **we will fear!**

George Mueller on his desk had a little sign and it said this:-

'It matters to Him about you'. Isn't that beautiful?

It's a literal rendering of: **'He cares for you'** in 1 Peter 5:7; –
it matters to Him about you! **God, in His love,**
brings us into a relationship where we can enjoy Him.

Where He can do His best for us and through us
and the other side of the coin to that is:-
We ought to do our best for Him.

I believe the word of God teaches that those who obey
show a greater love for the Lord Jesus and have greater
grace poured upon them - for He said this in John 14:23;

'If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father
will love him, and we will come unto him, and
make our abode with him' - that's a special love.
That's a love that comes in response to our obedience.

As obedient followers of Jesus Deity has come to dwell in us.

Perhaps our Christian life is becoming lukewarm, informal and half-hearted, and our loyalties are divided:-
why does that happen? Because we are not trusting in and resting in the love of God!

Handley Moule was the Bishop of Durham, and there was a colliery disaster, he went down with his Bible in his hand to try to bring **some comfort** to these people who had been bereaved and were mourning.

He didn't know what he was going to say,
he was lost for words,
he opened his Bible at a particular place
where **he had a bookmark.**

He lifted up that bookmark and showed them on **one side was a picture of tangled coloured threads**, and he said:-

'This is the disaster in your life, it doesn't seem you're going to see through it, there are things you can't understand'.

He turned the book mark over, **It simply said GOD IS LOVE.** He said:-
'**But behind it all there is a loving God**'.

Do we believe this?
Will we live as if we believe this?

God has always desired for man to love Him.

Mark 12:29-30;

“Jesus replied, The most important commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’”

John 15-8-14; Love for God is not optional.

Our relationship with God must be based on love.

8. “My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.

9. I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.”

10. “When you obey me, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father and remain in his love. 11. I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

12. I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you. 13. And here is how to measure it the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends. 14. You are my friends if you obey me”.

We need to learn compassion for the lost.

(Matt 9:36–38; 18:27; Mark 6:34; Luke 15:20; Jude 22-23;)

We need to be moved with pity and a real desire to save those whom we know to be lost (Rom 9:3; 10:1;)

**Compassion begins with remembering
when we were sinners without God in our lives.**

(1 Timothy 1:11-16; cf., Galatians 6:1;)

**When we have gained compassion for the lost then
we will start trying to reach them with the Gospel.**

(Acts 17:16;)

**Not only must we love God,
we must also love all others:-**

Our enemies. (Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-32;)

One another. (I John 4:11;)

The brethren. I Pet 1:22; I John 3:14;

Our neighbours. (Matt. 19:19;),

Our husband /wife. Eph 5:22-23; I Pet 3:1-6;

Ourselves. Matt 19:19; 1 John 4:7-8; I John 4:19;

We need to LIVE by the golden rule!

(Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31;).

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**Sincerely seek the interests of others
ahead of my own. (Philippians 2:3-4;).**

**There is little room in the heart for real love
when we are primarily concerned about ourselves.**

**Jesus was not thinking about Himself
when He went to the cross.**

(Matthew 26:39; Matthew 20:28;)

If every action of kindness or service is scrutinized through the filter of “how is this going to affect me?**” little or nothing will be accomplished
In the Kingdom of Jesus.**

**“Open my heart and hands
to my brothers and sisters.”**

1 John 3:16-17;

**Sometimes we are harder on our brethren
than we are on the world.**

**We can open up the wallet, volunteer or both
for those in the world and do nothing for the saints,
Who may be equally in need. (John 13:35;)**

**When we have truly learned the love of God
we will be ready to serve the brethren.**

(Galatians 5:13; Acts 9:36; Titus 3:8,14;)

Seven points on God's love:-

a. It is **Uninfluenced**. (Deut. 7:7-8; 2 Timothy 1:9;)

b. It is **Eternal**. (Jeremiah 31 :3)

c. It is **Sovereign**. (Romans 9:15; Ephesians 1:4-5;)

d. It is **Infinite**. (Ephesians 2:4; John 3:1 6;)

e. It is **Immutable**. (unchanging.) (Jam 1:17-19;)
Rom 8:35-39;)

f. It is **Holy**. (I John 1:5; Hebrews 12:6; Romans 5:21;)

g. It is **Gracious**. (John 3:16; Romans 8:32-39;)

CONCLUSION:

God Is Love!

- 1. He is the source of all love.**
- 2. He is the pattern for loving.**
- 3. He is the final arbiter of what real love is.**

Do We Love God?

Not if we have not obeyed the Gospel.

(John 14:15; 1 John 5:2;)

**Not if we do not show proper love
for the saints of God.**

(1 John 3:16–19; 5:1-2;)

What will we do about coming to love God today?

Obey His Gospel. (Romans 10:10; Acts 2:38; 11:14;)

Love the brotherhood. (1 Peter 1:22-23;)

**Finally, the promise of an eternal home
as a reward for faithful service
is a blessing stemming from God's love.**

Jesus promises

**"I go to prepare a place for you, and
if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again
and receive you unto myself that where I am,
there you may be also." (John 14:2-3;)**

It is love which causes us to:-

**Believe in the sacrifice of Jesus, by Gods Grace.
We respond to Gods Grace by Repenting of our sins
and Confessing Jesus as Lord, we allow ourselves
to be Baptized into His death, and Live a faithful life.**

Knowing God- HIS LOVE.

This is important to understand.

We are challenged to be faithfully obedient to God.

NOT because He is standing over us
with a big stick threatening us.

(although there are obviously consequence of sin.)

Rather our MOTIVATION
to FAITHFULL OBEDIENCE is LOVE!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE
IN FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE
BECAUSE WE WANT TO!
NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE TO!

What is God Like.?

8 of 11

GOD IS LOVE.

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Next in the series:- God Is FAITHFUL.