

What Do We Mean When We Say, "GOD IS LOVE"

1 John 4:7-12, 19; 5:1-3

Jeremiah 31:1-3, 31-37

Romans 5:1-11



The Love of God (1 John 4:9-12)

- ♥ God's love was/is an **eternal** love. (Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:35, 38-39; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-16)
- ♥ God's love was/is a **choosing** love. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Matthew 11:25-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Psalm 135:4; Malachi 1:2-3; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:28-30, 33; 9:10-21; Titus 1:1-2; 1 Peter 2:9)
- ♥ God's love **predestined**. (Ephesians 1:4-5; Acts 13:48)
- ♥ God's love was an **adopting** love. (Eph 1:5; 1 John 3:1; Romans 8:17)
- ♥ God's love is a **powerful** love. (Eph 1:17-19; Acts 26:18; Rom 1:16; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 1:13, 29; 1 Thess 1:5, 11)
- ♥ God's love is a **self-denying** love. (Philippians 2:)
- ♥ God's love is a **calling** love. (1 Peter 2:9-10; John 11:43; Rom 8:29-30)
- ♥ God's love is a **drawing** love. (John 6:44, 65; Psalm 65:4)
- ♥ God's love is a **justifying** love. (Romans 5:1-5; 3:24; 8:1; Titus 3:4-7)
- ♥ God's love is a **glorifying** love. (1 John 3:2; Rom 8:30)
- ♥ God's love is a **cleansing** love. (Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Cor 6:11)
- ♥ God's love is a **giving** love. (John 3:16; Gal 2:20; Titus 2:14; Eph 5:2)
- ♥ God's love is a **servicing** love. (Mat 20:28; Heb 8:2; Philip 2:6-7)
- ♥ God's love is **great!** (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- ★ **Because GOD loved us we OBEY (love)!**

Do We Love One Another? (1 John 4:7-8)

- "Beloved" or "loved ones" or "agaped ones" is equal to "little children" – God's children. Those who have been loved by God love each other. (1 John 5:1-2)
- In 12 verses of this short letter the Holy Spirit commands us to love each other. (2:9, 10, 11; 3:10, 14, 15, 17; 4:7, 8, 20, 21; 5:16)
- This love is **sacrificial** love. It is a love that **costs** lots and is a **giving** love. (1 John 3:16)
- This love is **self-denying** love. It is a love that loves despite how others treat us!
- This love is a **duty** because we have been loved. (1 John 3:16)

- This love meets needs – not wants! (1 John 3:17)
- This love **never** compromises the **truth**. (1 Corinthians 13:6)
- ★ Those who do **not** love in this manner do not know God — are NOT saved! (John 17:1-3; 1 John 3:15)
- ★ Those who do not love in this manner are **murderers** and eternal life does not abide in them. (1 John 3:14-15)
- ★ Those who do not love in this manner and call themselves Christians are **liars**. (1 John 4:20)
- ★ This love involves daily **sacrifice** and **service**. (Matt 20:28; Philip 2:5-8)

THIS IS LOVE (1 John 4:9-10)

- To understand God's love one must have a Biblical understanding of SIN, GOD'S WRATH, and PROPITIATION.
- Any unbiblical opinion of these three will corrupt our understanding of God's love! (Galatians 5:9; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7; Matthew 16:6-12)

OUR SIN

- Let's circle the word "**our**" and then use the singular "**my**"!
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- We all sin. (1 John 1:7-8)
- Sin separates us from God. (Isaiah 59:2; Micah 3:4; Deut 31:17-18)
- Sin is an **abomination** to a HOLY, HOLY, HOLY God. (Leviticus 11; Luke 16:15 – What God commands and is disobeyed is an **ABOMINATION** to God).
- God **abhors** sinners. (Psalm 5:5-6; 7:11; 11:5-6; Proverbs 3:32-33; Leviticus 20:23; Hosea 9:15; Zechariah 11:8)
- **ALL SIN IS SIN AGAINST GOD!** (Psalm 51:4; Genesis 39:9)
- In other words, God takes sin (any sin) seriously. (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23)
- God promises not to let the guilty go free! (Exodus 34:7; 20:6; 23:7; Numbers 14:18-23; Deut 5:9-10; Nehemiah 1:5; Nahum 1:2-3; Romans 2:4-9)
- God promises to take vengeance on His enemies! (Deuteronomy 32:41-43; Psalm 58:10; 94:1; Isaiah 1:24; 34:8; 59:17; 61:2; Nahum 1:2-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Hebrews 10:30)
- **EVERY** sin must be paid for – not ONE "white lie" will go unpunished!
- Our 21st Century view of sin does not come close to the Biblical view of sin!
 - The world laughs at, ignores, and mocks sin.
 - The world uses sin to entertain!
 - The church ignores, redefines, rationalizes, and "culturalizes" sin!
 - **GOD DOES NOT CHANGE AND GOD WILL PUNISH ALL SIN!**
- Sin is so serious to God that only sacrificing (crucifying) His own Son would satisfy his disgust of sin, anger toward sin and sinners, and His holy justice.

GOD's WRATH

- God's wrath, like His love, is a divine **perfection** of His character.
- God is NOT ashamed of His wrath – consider Deuteronomy 32:39-42.
- God's wrath is REAL and ought to be a motivating factor in our presentation of the Gospel! (2 Corinthians 5:11)
- We are warned of God's wrath more than we are taught of His love in His Word!
- John the Baptist warned **religious** leaders to "flee the wrath to come". (Matthew 3:7)
- Christ taught that we ought to fear God who can kill the body and send the soul to hell for eternity. (Luke 12:5)
- Christ trembled at God's wrath! (Luke 22:42-44)
- God did not spare even His own Son when it came to sin. (Romans 8:32; Isaiah 53:10; Psalm 69:5 with Hebrews 7:22 and 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- **GOD IS SERIOUS WHEN IT COMES TO SIN!**

GOD PROPITIATED! (1 John 4:10)

- ♥ IN THIS IS LOVE! God's love is **PROPITIATING!**
- "to propitiate" means "to appease the anger of a god" or "to satisfy the anger of a god".
- ♥ God so loved His people that He appeased Himself by sacrificing His only begotten Son! God provided the LAMB for the sacrifice!
- God's anger toward **sinner**s had to be appeased and **HE** appeased His anger toward us by pouring out His holy, righteous wrath on His Son!!!!
- Christ's sacrifice "satisfied" "appeased" God's holy anger towards His people. (Hebrews 2:17)
- Old Testament pictures of propitiation:
 - ① The Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:10-22; Leviticus 16)
 - ② The return of the ark to Beth Shemesh in 1 Samuel 5-6.
- The "mercy seat" in Luke 18:13.
 - ✗ The Pharisee's view of his sin.
 - ★ The tax collector's view of his sin. "Lord, be a mercy seat for me!"
 - HIS PRAYER: **GOD - MERCY - "the" SINNER!** (See 1 Tim 1:5)
 - His humility: Humility is NOT thinking lowly of oneself. Humility is not thinking of yourself at all! (Luke 9:23; Isaiah 40:17)
 - His sin **bothered** him greatly!
 - He asked for MERCY not GRACE!!!!
 - MERCY: Not receiving what we deserve – GOD's WRATH.
 - GRACE: Receiving what we do not deserve – GOD's LOVE.
 - He asked! (Consider Romans 9:16, 18 with Matthew 20:15)
- **Mercy is NOT FREE! It costs!**
 - The "Judge of all the earth" cannot ignore His Law. "Without the shedding of blood there is **no** forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22)

→ Christ entered the Holy of Holies (in heaven – the presence of God) with His **own** blood and **obtained eternal** redemption! (Hebrews 9:12)

If God **SO** Loved Us . . . (1 John 4:11)

- (Ephesians 2:4) "**BUT GOD . . . RICH in MERCY . . . with HIS GREAT LOVE**"

Can Christians Sin? (1 John 4:11)

- **GOD FORBID!!!** (Romans 6:1-2)
 - ✗ "I know it is sin, but God will forgive me!" = GROSS BLASPHEMY!
- (1 John 3:9-10) – Those born of God (born-again) **do not sin.**
- Those who are recipients of God's love love GOD (in obeying His commandments) and love one another! (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; **Luke 7:47**)

Love Is Demonstrated in Obedience (1 John 5:1-3)

- He who "**says**" He knows God and does not OBEY His commandments is a **LIAR! – BLACK & WHITE!** (1 John 2:3-4)
- (5:2) "**BY THIS WE KNOW** (8x in 1 John) **we love . . .**"
 - ① We love (obey) GOD.
 - ② We keep His commandments! His **imperatives** in His Word.
- (5:3) "For **this** is the love of God . . ."
 - ★ That we **keep** His commandments.
 - ☞ "to keep" is τηρέω tereo {tay-reh'-o} meaning "to attend to carefully"; "to obey"; "to guard"
 - ☞ To "keep" His commandments means two things:
 - ① To obey **carefully**. (Deut 6:7; 11:22; 28:1, 15; 31:12; Psalm 119:4; Joshua 1:7; Jer 7:23; Matt 28:20)
 - ② To "guard" as a **treasure**. (Psalm 119:127, 162, 72; 19:10; Proverbs 2:1; 7:1; 3:14-15; 8:10-11)
- (1 Samuel 15:22-23) God says, "If you do not obey Me then do not bother worshipping Me because **ALL** sin is REBELLION and IDOLATRY!"

God's Commands Are NOT Burdensome (1 John 5:3)

- The **loving** Father's commands **ARE NOT BURDENSOME** to His children.
- If keeping the loving Father's commandments is a **burden** then test yourself (2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10) because for a child of God they are **NOT** burdensome.
- If you rationalize or "culturalize" away God's **commandments** says more about your love for God than anything else!!
- Our **simple** obedience is our demonstration of our love for our loving Father who has loved us with a **GREAT** love. (Ephesians 2:4)