

God is Love

Text: I John 4:7-19 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; **for God is love.** ⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** (*atonement*) for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. ¹² No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because **he hath given us of his Spirit.** ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love;** and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us.

Introduction: My last sermon was titled “**God is a Spirit.**” We understood that if we wanted to call upon the TRUE and LIVING GOD, we must call upon him in “*Spirit and Truth.*” **John 4:24 states, God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

Now, we want to look at the subject of **God’s Love – I John 4:8 & 4:16** simply states, **GOD IS LOVE**
What does this simple statement imply and what is its meaning?

I. Why Does God Love Us?

We are children of the new covenant! Born again into covenant fellowship with God through Christ!

Deuteronomy 7:6-10 For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. ⁷The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: ⁸But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers (**JESUS’ COVENANT**), hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹**Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;** ¹⁰And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

II. God’s Love is:

- ♥ *Pure Love: not lustful or carnal-similar to a Mother’s Love, yet far greater! A CREATOR’S LOVE!*
- ♥ *Simple Love: basic and uncomplicated-not dependent on scholarly attainment- does not need to be dissected/analyzed or understood!*
- ♥ *Large and Limitless Love: like the dew covering the ground-more than we can contain!*
- ♥ *Faithful Love: enduring and dependable!*
- ♥ *Active and Demonstrative Love: shown daily to us through prayer and favor!*
- ♥ *Hovering and Protective Love: preserves us from calamity and evil!*
- ♥ *Personal and Direct Love: if you are Born Again, he speaks and lovingly guides you!*
- ♥ *General and Limited Love: if you are not Born Again- God causes his rain to fall on the just and on the unjust! God still loves you but longs for you to come back to him (Prodigal Son kind of love)!*
- ♥ *Everlasting Love: his love shines down upon us like the sun rays. It is here today, tomorrow and forever!*

III. Two of my Personal Favorite Scriptures on God’s Love

Song of Solomon 2:10 ¹⁰ My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. ¹¹ For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; ¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of

the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; ¹³ The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Note: THESE SCRIPTURES DEMONSTRATE THE POWERFUL BOND BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER. A GLORIOUS and ETERNAL FUTURE AWAITS US WITH CHRIST AS OUR NEW COVENANT REDEEMER!

Ephesians 2:1-8 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, **for his great love wherewith he loved us**, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶ And *hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*: ⁷ **That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus**. ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Note: BUT GOD...GOD AND HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US INTERVENED and TRACKED US DOWN. HE OVERCAME US WITH HIS GREAT MERCY AND LOVE. THROUGH CHRIST, HE FORGAVE US OF OUR SINS and BROUGHT US BACK INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM. A LOVE SO GREAT THAT IT WILL TAKE AN ETERNITY TO REVEAL TO US ITS TRUE MEASURE!

IV. How should the knowledge of GOD'S LOVE affect us?

1. God's Love dissolves all of the defenses of a hardened heart and splits it open with overwhelming force. It conquers the strongest man's ego and pride! Somebody loves me-not just anybody but the Creator of Mankind- the Creator of the Universe!
2. Make us humble! Who are we? We certainly aren't worthy!
3. Elevates our Self-worth
4. Completes us – The void in our heart has been filled- We have found the Pearl of Great Prize?
5. Opens up a greater desire to Fellowship with the ONE who LOVES us! Outward dead or dying Religious Activities are turned into Praise and Worship and AWE toward God!
6. We are released from Fear-**John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
7. We want to Please Him in a Greater Way!
8. We wish to show our love back and communicate more with him in prayer
9. We have a greater love toward our Brothers and Sisters! Even those we don't know in other parts of the world! *We are Free to Love Each Other for we are Loved!*
10. We desire to tell a lost world of what is Missing in their lives so they too can be fulfilled!

V. Closing: The hymn “THE LOVE OF GOD” contains much of what I want to say on this important subject. Please read the words and the story behind the writing of this timeless hymn.

The Love of God Lyrics by Frederick M Lehman (1868–1953)

*1 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 wand'ring child is reconciled
by God's beloved Son.
The aching soul again made whole,
and priceless pardon won.*

Refrain:

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints' and angels' song.*

*2 When ancient time shall pass away,
and human thrones and kingdoms fall;
when those who here refuse to pray
on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
grace will resound the whole earth round—
the saints' and angels' song. [Refrain]*

*3 Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made;
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
and ev'ryone a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky.*

The story below concerning the hymn, ***"The Love of God"*** was found on the internet at the following location: <https://christianmusicandhymns.com/2022/07/story-behind-the-love-of-god-hymn-lyrics.html>

1917 in California. As is the case with most of my beloved hymns, this hymn came after a challenging time in the life of the author. He had just lost his business after some of his business deals had gone sour. It is from this incident that we find Mr. Lehman ended up packing oranges and lemons on a farm.

It is reported that during this time he attended a church service where he heard a powerful sermon on the love of God that touched him deeply. I am sure that you my brother or sister, have at least had one such experience.

Only those that have gone through a similar experience can understand what it means to spend the whole night contemplating a powerful gospel message that you heard that day. This is what happened to the author when he returned home from church. The message of the love of God kept ringing in his head that he could not sleep.

When he returned to continue packing oranges in containers the following day, he decided as a musician to write a song based on this sermon he had heard. We are told that he wrote the lyrics on crates and scrap paper.

He used anything he could write on to write the lyrics of this beautiful hymn. It was that important to the author that he had to write this song by any means.

But a song is incomplete until you have a melody. Lyrics on their own are nothing. In Mr. Lehman's case he produced the melody when he returned home that day. He produced the melody by playing with his piano as is the case with most composers who are piano players.

Within a brief period, he had produced two verses. While nowadays it is all right to have songs with just two verses, in those days a song was considered incomplete until it had at least three verses. This meant that Mr. Lehman had to produce at least one more verse to complete the song.

It was at this time that he remembered a poem that had been written by a prisoner on prison walls two hundred years before. Since the poem was found after the prisoner had died, we don't know the circumstances that led this prisoner to author this poem.

And we cannot say for certain if he was the one who composed this poem either. He could have heard or seen this poem somewhere else and decided to write it on the prison walls.

Whatever the circumstances that lead to this poem being scribbled on prison walls, we thank God for the powerful message in this poem. By the way, I need to add that this poem was found by painters who were repainting the dead prisoner's cell. Before they painted over the poem, one of the painters jotted it down.

Mr. Lehman reviewed the words of this prisoner's poem and by God's grace it fitted his melody. And it formed the third verse of this hymn.