

## **WHY?**

### **Why Should God Love Me?**

We have all heard it countless times. Whether it was from the “John 3:16 sign” at the world series, songs we sang in Sunday School, or from a concerned neighbor or fellow worker, the claim of God’s love for us is everywhere we turn.

Probably more Christian music has been composed along this theme than any other from ancient hymns to the most contemporary praise.

**Jesus loves me this I know...**

**Love lifted me...**

**That God should love a sinner such as I ... Such love... such wondrous love...**

**I am so glad that Jesus loves me...**

**Isn't the love of Jesus something wonderful...**

**The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell...**

**Love divine, all loves excelling...**

**Amazing love, how can it be...**

We are familiar with the message. We not only sing about it but print its truth on banners and tee shirts - **Smile - God loves you.** We know the message, but do we really experience the truth?

It is one thing to know that God loves the world, but how often do we struggle with the fact that He love us - personally? If we all were to look at ourselves honestly, we will concede that many if not all of us struggle with this at least at some time in our lives. **Why should God love me?**

There are mainly two issues with which we struggle in this area. The first is because we are all sinners, when we really see ourselves according to God’s standard, we often can’t understand why God would love someone who is so bad.

Notice Job’s reaction when he began to see who God indeed was.

**“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:5-6**

When the prophet Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord in the Temple he responded:

**“Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Isaiah 6:5**

The Apostle Paul concluded his famous chapter on the struggle with sin in Romans 7 with these words:

**O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Romans 7:24**

The wonderful truth is that we can have forgiveness through what Christ did for us on the cross. It was God’s love that made that possible.

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

While we know what God has said about His love towards us, we still often struggle when we consider how wicked we are compared to a pure and holy God. In fact, the closer we grow to the Lord and in His knowledge, the more we will realize our unworthiness. When the enemy gets us to focus on our own unworthiness rather than God’s forgiveness, we will cry out, “Why should God love me?”

Not only will we struggle with sin, but we often can be overwhelmed with our own insignificance. In Psalm 8 David expressed what many of us often feel.

**When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? Psalm 8:3-4**

Think of how vast this universe is and how insignificant we are compared to it. The nearest star besides our sun is 4 ½ light years away. That is the distance light will travel in 4 ½ years while speeding along at 186,000 miles per second. Yet

that star is only one of millions.

The planet which we inhabit hardly even qualifies as a tiny speck in this vast universe. And you and I are only one of over 6.6 billion people. Why should God love someone as insignificant as we are?

Not only are we one out of 6.6 billion, we often feel insignificant because our lack of skills, knowledge, or importance as far as the world is concerned.

When God called to Moses from the burning bush and told him of his mission to demand that Pharaoh let the children of Israel go, Moses' response was...

**Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus 3:11**

While we know what Moses was able to accomplish because he let God work through him, Moses thought of himself as totally insignificant. In effect he was crying out:

**Why should God love me?**

**"Who Am I?" Praise team**

We can be assured of God's love for us in spite of our sin and insignificance because ...

## **1. LOVE IS AT THE HEART OF GOD'S CHARACTER**

**He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
1 John 4:8**

Much false teaching has come from a misapplication of this verse. Christian Science teaches that this verse implies God as divine Principle, Love, rather than personality. The cult called the Children of God use it to justify sexual promiscuity.

But the phrase *God is love* is not meant to depersonalize God or portray Him as a force, principle, or some sort of cosmic energy. God is a personal Being with all the attributes of personality. Neither does it legitimize illicit forms of love.

The love of which John speaks is a pure and holy love, consistent with all the divine attributes. What John is saying is that love is the highest expression of His person.

The simple statement "God is love" does not convey everything that can be known about God. In John 4:24 we read the words *God is Spirit*. Hebrews 12:29 states "*Our God is a consuming fire*." Psalm 7:11 says, "*God is a righteous judge*". In the same book we find the words *God is love* we also read **That God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5**

Yet the Scriptural statement that *God is love* is a very strong statement about the character and the essence of God. It is God's very nature to love - love permeates who He is. The passage does not say *God is loving* as if it were only describing one of many divine attributes, but *God is love* as is to say that love pervades and influences all His attributes.

**For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens Hebrews 7:26**

Because God is absolutely holy, He would be perfectly righteous to look at all sinners with contempt. But His is a loving holiness that reaches out to sinners with salvation for them.

## **2. THE CROSS IS THE ULTIMATE PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE.**

**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. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10**

God did just say He loved us, He proved it. The cross was absolutely necessary to satisfy a righteous and holy God.

Some would have us to believe that because God is love, He will never condemn anyone or hold them accountable

to His holy standard. Therefore they teach that Jesus was only a good example who died a martyr's death. They deny that God purposely gave His own Son to make an atonement for sin. They have missed the entire point of the gospel. The Good News is not that God loves everyone and therefore would never send anyone to hell. Such a teaching ignores God's holiness. The Good News is that though we deserve hell, God has provided a way of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. Because God is righteous, He must punish sin; He cannot simply absolve guilt and leave justice unsatisfied. But the death of Christ totally satisfied God's justice, His righteousness, and His holy hatred of sin.

### **3. WE CAN EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE BECAUSE HE LOVED US FIRST.**

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

All of our insecurities because of our sin and our feelings of insignificance are taken away when we realize that God loved us first.

**The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:3**

One passage of Scripture pretty well sums up Christ's ministry and His love.

**For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10**

How should we respond to the love of God?

- **Accept it.**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23**

- **Be thankful for it.**

**Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 1 Corinthians 9:15**

- **Live it.**

**Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one**

**another. 1 John 4:11**

- **Share it.**

**For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**