

GOD IS LOVE

GOD by His very nature is LOVE, and In studying the Love of GOD we must understand that there are 3 kinds of love, all created of GOD as holy and beautiful, and they in some ways correspond with the 3 Divine Persons, Father, Son & Holy Spirit. They are "agape" love, which is a total commitment from the heart, "phileo" love, which is the love of a friend, and mostly is of the soul, and "eros" love which is the physical love of a husband and wife. All these as God given, are pure and holy, and it is only the sin of mankind that has marred the pure work of GOD and transformed it in to idolatry, lust, and all manner of uncleanness.

GOD the Father loves us with all His Heart and sent His Son JESUS to become one with us, whom He calls His friends, and the HOLY SPIRIT comes to dwell in our bodies to shed abroad the love of GOD in our hearts and lead us into all the Truth. The apostle John wrote more of the Love of GOD in his gospel and epistles than anyone else. "GOD is Love; and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in GOD and GOD in him." 1 John.4-16. (Read all of ch's 3 & 4 and John ch. 14.) I list below seven of the many ways in which GOD, "Our Own GOD" (Ps.67-6) loves us.

1. GOD loves us as our Creator and as One who delights in His handiwork. Prov. 8-23/31.
2. GOD loves us as a Father loves and delight in His Own children. Ps. 139-17/18
3. GOD loves us with an individual and special Love.and has created each one of us absolutely unique. Ps.139-13/16
4. GOD loves us as His very own special Family. 2 Cor.6-17/18 John 14-21/23 Rom.8-16/17
5. GOD loves us as sons and daughter who are to be the Kings & Priests of His Eternal Kingdom. 1 Pet.2-9 Rev.5-8/10
6. GOD loves us as a Bridegroom loves His Bride. Hos.3-18/20 Rev.19-5/9
7. GOD loves with an Everlasting Love, Jer. 31.3

1 Cor. 13 specifies the kind of Love GOD wants us to have and I set out below the best of GOD'S way and the worst of the self life outside of Christ.

The life in Christ- GOD'S Way

1. Love suffers long (is patient & puts up with things)
2. Love is kind (thinks of others)
3. Love envieth not. (is satisfied with what it has)
4. Love vaunteth not itself
5. Love is not puffed up.
6. Love doth not behave itself unseemly.
7. Love seeketh not her own. (is self sacrificing)
8. Love is not easily provoked
9. Love thinketh no evil.

10. Love rejoices not in iniquity
11. Love rejoices in the truth

12. Love beareth all things
13. Love believeth all things
14. Love hopeth all things (never gives up)
15. Love endureth all things (has a martyr spirit)

16. Love never fails

The Unredeemed Self Life- the sinful way

- Self is impatient and resentful
Self is unkind and wants everything for itself
Self is greedy and envious of others
Self is pushy and always wants the limelight
Self is full of its own importance.
Self is crude, rude and ill mannered.
Self is greedy and wants all it can get.
Self is bad tempered and flares up easily.
Self is quick to think the worst of people.
- Self gloats over and shares in iniquity.
Self hates and does not want to hear the truth.
- Self complains on every occasion
Self is unbelieving and skeptical.
Self is pessimistic and looks on the worst side.
Self gives in easily to doom and gloom.
- The Self life is a complete failure.

JESUS said "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another" John. 13-35

We show our love to GOD by keeping His commandments, and in so doing GOD loves us, manifests Himself to us, comes to abide in our hearts, and teaches us all things. John 14-21/26.

The first 9 things mean the complete negation of the self life, so that the Christ life may be fully realised within us. Rom.8-1 (KJV) The NIV leaves out the condemnation of those who "walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit".

JESUS shows us the Way, and GOD doesn't ask anything of us that JESUS has not already accomplished for us.

GOD'S Church is called to be the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World (Matt.5-13/14) and today as never before we need to stand up for our Faith, and be the Witnesses that GOD wants us to be, with all boldness in the Holy Ghost In the days of trouble that are ahead of us we must be able to stand and face the Enemy, knowing that GOD has given us the victory; to have the Love of GOD continually abiding in our hearts will be our sure defence and armour against evil.

May the Spirit of Grace and Glory rest upon us (Ps.84-11), may the Beauty of the LORD our GOD be seen in us (Ps.90-17) and may we be channels of blessing and instruments of righteousness in GOD'S hands (Rom.6-13).

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