

## *The Disturbing Love of God*

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**Introduction:** Man has a great fear of the unknown.

- A. It is not uncommon for men and even countries to miss a long known enemy that has departed.
  - 1. Why? Because an long known enemy has a measure of predictability!
  - 2. Those who are in the world have been taught to fear. They cannot conceive of any other reality.
  - 3. The love of God provides the only relief from this fearful life of torment. **(1 Jn 4:18)**
  - 4. What greater unknown is there to the world than death? Again God's love provides an answer. **(Heb 2:14-15)**
- B. Why then do men not run to the love of God? It is because of their fear.
  - 1. For those who do not know God they are afraid of what they may find.
  - 2. Satan has blinded their hearts through ignorance and as a result they hate the very light that can free them from bondage. **(Jn 8:32; 3:19-21)**
  - 3. What a sad situation, men who fear God's love but remain in the grasp of Satan. Who should they really fear? **(Mt 10:28)**

### ***I. The mighty demands of the love of God***

- A. The love of God is exactly like the Son of God in His ministry. Wherever He went He disturbed, revealed and changed men who spent time with Him.
  - 1. What did He do when He went into the temple? **(Jn 2:13-17)**
  - 2. What did Jesus do when He spoke to the rich, young ruler? **(Mk 10:17-22)**
  - 3. In both cases the love moved Jesus to expose the heart.
- B. The love of God demands the whole heart.
  - 1. A scribe asked a question in the midst of those who wanted to destroy Jesus. **(Mk 12:28-31)**
  - 2. Unlike the others he came closer to the kingdom of God. **(Mk 12:32-34)**
  - 3. What was the reaction of the others? Why?
- C. The love of God will empty you.
  - 1. Left alone we will be pulled towards the self-centered fear to protect what is "mine." There is a better way.
  - 2. Jesus emptied Himself to show us the way. **(Phil 2:5-8)**
  - 3. The world finds these words incomprehensible. **(Phil 2:1-4)**
  - 4. We often are like the child clutching to a toy shouting "mine!"

### ***II. Satan's counterfeit of the love of God***

- A. Satan will not stand by without a fight. He tries to make his workers and teaching look like God's. **(2 Cor 11:14-15)**
  - 1. He already has confused "love" with "lust." **(2 Pt 2:1-2, 18-19)**
  - 2. Some groups have redefined fornication by calling it "justice love."
- B. The deceiver will make you comfortable with Bible knowledge alone.
  - 1. A group of men wanted to trap and later kill Jesus. Consider the experience of a certain lawyer. **(Lk 10:25-28)**

2. His own answer and Jesus' comments disturbed him. What did this knowledgeable man claim not to know? (**Lk 10:29**)
  3. Jesus illustrated the answer with some painful examples. The lawyer got the point but did it change his life? (**Lk 10:30-37**)
  4. We can easily fall into this kind of counterfeit. (**2 Tim 3:4-5**)
  5. How many have hardened their hearts behind an intellectual wall?
- C. The ruler of this world will make you comfortable in only loving the "lovable."
1. Jesus painfully pointed this out in the Sermon on the Mount. (**Mt 5:46-47**)
  2. Many religious parties are kept alive by this kind of "love." (**Jn 5:41-44**)
  3. These "loving" leaders could lie about and then murder Jesus but be sure not to be "unclean" for the Passover. (**Jn 18:28**)
  4. Far too many have this kind of "love." The world understands this and praises it. In time your tongue will reveal you.

### ***III. Is the love of God really in my life?***

- A. How does the love of God respond to an enemy? (**Mt 5:43-45**)
1. Do you really want to be like God?
  2. This kind of response will greatly confuse the worldly person. It may open his heart. (**Rom 12:19-21**)
  3. Over time you will see God's fruit. (Ex. Call I received this week.)
- B. How does the love of God respond to someone who has hurt me?
1. There are many brethren who say: "I do not have to like you, I just have to love you!"
  2. Those who say that have accepted Satan's counterfeit. What did Jesus say? (**Jn 13:34-35; Col 3:12; 2 Pt 1:7**)
  3. Have you pulled back from your brethren in disappointment?
- C. How does the love of God respond to the lost?
1. Does this verse startle you? (**Rom 9:1-3**)
  2. Are we anywhere near this kind of love? How many have visited here or even been members and then slip away?
  3. We need to learn the love God has for the lost. Will you remain in an indifferent comfort in these matters? (**2 Tim 2:24-26**)
- D. How does the love of God respond to a doctrinal disagreement?
1. Too many want to run from open study. Some call this an act of "love."
  2. The love of God will always seek the truth. (**1 Cor 13:4-7**)
- E. How does the love of God respond to sin?
1. Consider what Jesus did on the cross. (**2 Cor 5:14-15**)
  2. Those who are moved by the love of God will not stop at anything short of forgiveness in Christ! (**Jn 8:24**)
  3. The love of God demands repentance! (**Lk 13:3**)
  4. Many will try to find "loopholes." The one who loves God seeks obedience.

**Conclusion:** The love of God does not have to be spoken but it will be seen!

- A. What does your life say? Has Jesus entered your temple?
- B. Do you have confidence in the love of God or do you live in torment?