

God's Love is for All; 1 John 4:7-8

I. Love Versus Lust

A. Our idea of love

1. The feelings of passion that draw us close to our husbands and wives (I love my wife)
2. The feelings of desire that form our ideas of what we like to eat and drink; what we like to drive, where we like to live (I love starburst candy, I love big trucks, I love country homes)
3. The feelings of pride in our community for our schools, our businesses (I love the Plainview High School Band, I love Spud-Nuts)
4. These are all great things, but love may be too strong a word for them, especially if we define love the way God does

II. God's Idea of Love

A. It is eternal

1. Isaiah 54:10; For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.
2. Psalm 136, "for His steadfast love endures forever"
3. Our "loves" may change with our desires and passions, but God's love will not

B. It drives his covenant with us

1. Deuteronomy 7:9; Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,
2. His love for mankind drove Him to offer Jesus, His only Son, as an atoning sacrifice so that we could live eternally

C. It is lavish

1. Sumptuously rich and elaborate
2. To bestow something in generous or extravagant quantities
3. 1 John 3:1; See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
4. James 1:16–18; ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
5. To be called children of God, Heirs to the throne is indeed lavish!

D. It is holy and just

1. God's justice demands an acceptable sacrifice
2. The only acceptable sacrifice is His Son, Jesus
3. 2 Corinthians 5:21; For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

III. God's Love in Action

A. This gift of God's son is a unique act of love

1.1 John 4:9–10; ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

2. Propitiation - God's justice is satisfied through Jesus's sacrifice

a) Our sins demand God's justice (our death)

b) But God received justice through Jesus' death, this is love

B. God loves the unlovely

1. Romans 5:8; but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Ephesians 2:4–5; ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

IV. A Love for His People

A. Israel

1. Isaiah 43:1–4; ¹ But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

B. The Church

1. But now, the Church is Israel

a) Romans 9:6–8; ⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

2. Ephesians 5:25–27; ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

3. Ephesians 5:32; This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

C. The Lost

1.2 Peter 3:9; The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

V. Human Love

A. God's Love Transforms Human Love

B. Human love must respond to God's love

1.Colossians 3:12–14; ¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

2.1 John 4:19; We love because he first loved us.

3.1 Juan 4:19; Nosotros amamos a Dios porque él nos amó primero.

4. Just like the Israelites on the Day of Pentecost

a) Acts 2:37; Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

C. Human Love must be modeled on God’s love

1.1 John 4:7–12; ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

VI. God’s Love is for All

A. Not our idea of love, but God’s love

B. His eternal, lavish, holy and just love

C. All we have to do is respond to it

D. Let it transform our idea of love

E. Let it be our example of love