



**WELCOME
TO
BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Doubting God's Love Justice and Aspects of Love

(2023)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Doubting God's Love, Justice, and Aspects of Love.

Topics.

- Doubting God's love.
- We love because he first loved us.
- Love the highest gift.
- Love means justice to all people.
- Justice acts as a healing balm.
- A reason mankind yearns for love.
- The difference between like and love.
- The love of a mother and daughter (a true story).

DOUBTING GOD'S LOVE

David's Psalms and prayers clearly show that he perceived God's great love regardless of his circumstances (God or bad), this is why he could be openly and sometimes brutally honest before God in prayer. To have the steadfast love of God dwelling in his heart was his greatest treasure.

1

Ponder for a moment the inspiring beauty of the following Scriptures:

- **Romans 5:8:** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Romans 5:10:** While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

These are breath-taking statements and should be an overwhelming comfort to every brother and sister of Jesus since they carry an astoundingly and perfect example of love and are some of the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since they clearly show how much Christ loves us. Paul in the same letter also wrote the following:

- While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6).

This means that even though we were full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within our corrupted earthly bodies (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, envy, jealousies, anger, and such like things) Christ died for us, he laid down his life down to a brutal, bloody, and cruel death that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works.

Despite our corrupted fallen nature that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam, God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loved us long before we loved Him. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were ungodly and indifferent to God and His ways and in many cases blasphemers. Sadly, because of a lack of perceiving this great love God

has toward us that these verses (and others like them) shine a spotlight on, some in the Christian faith tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes, they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world.

When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love, all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us, and how much his Son suffered to redeem us, and spiritually crown and cloth us with his royal and majestic robe of righteousness so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort, and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions.

This truth should comfort every faithful brother and sister in Christ since it is certain if God was prepared to sacrifice his Son for us, while we were indifferent and apathetic toward Him and uninterested and unconcerned about what honoured Him and what did not, He will with great joy do everything to keep us for eternal life now we love His Son. (He does this by daily lavishing us with grace).

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

The apostle John, a disciple Jesus clearly loved, wrote:

- We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19).

2

Here is the glory the majesty the wonder the splendour of the Christian faith, "We love because he first loved us." How can there be any more glorious and comforting words than these.

Ponder for a moment: God loved you long before you loved him, so how much more will He now love you, now that you love Him. Many Christians as they grow spiritually in God's love begin to perceive the enormity of sin (selfishness, pride, lustful thoughts, greed jealousies, aggressive and passive anger etc.), dwelling within the utter most depth of their flesh (fallen human nature) (Rom. 7:16-23), and upon perceiving this ugliness dwelling within begin to feel that God cannot possibly love them, but this ugliness has nothing to do with God's love toward us.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

God not only accepted us with a loving heart full of grace and mercy, but Christ his beloved Son willing laid down his life for us even though he and his heavenly Father clearly understood all our ugly sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within, long before we came to Him in love through our faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Perceiving the ugliness and depth of indwelling sin is not only a sign of spiritual growth, but also a sign that we are spiritually moving toward God, since the further we enter into His pure and Holy Light the clearer we will see the ugliness that we have been saved from.

LOVE THE HIGHEST GIFT

Ever wondered what the Spirit and heart of God desires from us, or what He desires His people would value as the highest goal to seek after? Some might say:

- Scriptural knowledge.
- Spiritual gifts.
- Greater faith.

Obviously, these are all good to seek after, but what does God consider the highest gift? Consider the following words of the apostle Paul:

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not LOVE, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal and if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not LOVE, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not LOVE, I gain nothing (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

To highlight God's attitude toward love even more Paul shines a mega floodlight on what God gives the highest priority by finishing his message with the words:

- Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these three is love (1 Cor. 13:13).

Clearly for those in Christ's Kingdom who are seeking to honour God and desiring to hear the comforting words of their Lord, "Well done good and faithful servant." The best advice I could give, is to magnify and enlarge love so that it swells to overflowing in the heart, because everything that flows out from a heart filled with love will honour God, and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Christian faith.

LOVE MEANS JUSTICE TO ALL PEOPLE

Leviticus chapter nineteen makes it clear that our neighbour is every other person, showing that the law requires justice to all people. The six commandments regarding mankind should be applied to everyone and we must abide by them ourselves. To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

Neighbour (`amiyth) **from Strong's Concordance:** carries the following ideas, to associate with a companion, a comrade, kindred, a person, or another fellow.

Neighbour from the English Dictionary: embraces, a fellow human being, somebody who lives next door or who lives nearby.

In Leviticus chapter nineteen the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

- Every one shall revere his mother and his father. (v3).
- You shall leave fallen grapes for the poor and the sojourner (foreigner). (v10).
- You shall not steal, deal falsely, or lie to one another. (v11).
- You shall not oppress your neighbour or rob them. (v13).

- The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you until the morning. (v13).
- You shall not curse the deaf, or put a stumbling block before the blind. (v14).
- You shall do no injustice in court. (v15).
- You shall not be partial to the poor, or favour the great. (v15).
- You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people. (v16).
- You shall not stand up against the life of your neighbour. (v16).
- You shall not hate your brother in your heart. (v17).
- You shall reason frankly with your neighbour. (v17).
- You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your own people. (v18).
- You shall respect the grey head and honour the face of an old man. (v32).
- You shall do no wrong to a stranger in your land. (v33).
- You shall love a stranger who lives among you as yourself. (v34).

These statements show love your neighbour means respecting a person's:

- Right of life, (thou shalt not kill).
- Home and family (thou shalt not commit adultery).
- Property and possessions, (thou shalt not steal).
- Reputation, (thou shalt not bear false witness).
- Respecting others in thought (thou shalt not covet).

Old Testament Law: at Mount Horeb God renewed His covenant with the Jewish people, setting before them life and death, good and evil.

- **Deuteronomy 30:15-16:** "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

The very first thing Moses commanded is, "love the LORD your God," this is because, if a nation or individual loves God, they will be willing to walk in His ways, and keep His commandments, statutes, and judgments, then they will receive life. The first century Jewish religious leaders of Jesus Generation (the chief priests, Pharisees, and scribes, ignored the first commandment, love God, and in so doing became mechanical in obeying and keeping God's Law, believing they were made righteous by strictly adhering to God's law, and made worthy of eternal life. The deception in this idea, is that though we are all called to obey the ten commandments, obeying them, has no value before God if He is not the first love, and His laws are being mechanically kept, to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life. For anyone to be accepted, a change of heart must come first, and then walking in God's ways, will not be a burden, for it will be the desire of the heart.

JUSTICE ACTS AS A HEALING BALM

- **Psalm 9:6-8:** The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins; their cities you rooted out; the very memory of them has perished. ⁷But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, ⁸and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

One of the re-occurring prayers of David is that the LORD would never take His steadfast love away from Him, but as great as God's love is, David was fully aware, love, does not do away with justice, he was so aware of this, that he states:

- The LORD sits enthroned forever; his throne for justice," (Psalm 9:7).

This shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that justice is one of the great pillars of God's throne, and it is very clear to all that another great pillar is love. John in his letters wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

Now here is why I mention this, "Love does not annul justice," love and justice are brothers and sisters, they complement each other. Justice is an act of love, because it protects the innocent from the wicked, and acts as a healing balm to the victims who have been wounded and hurt by an abuser, or suffered because of some criminal act against them. When those who have been abused, or suffered violence, or loss, see that they have been cheated out of justice, because of some technicality of the law, the emotional and mental wound remains open. Though justice cannot repair the damage done, it does bring a sense of peace, and certain level of emotional relief and healing within the victims' heart and mind.

A REASON MANKIND YEARNS FOR LOVE

One of the reasons mankind yearns for love is because we are made in the image of God, and God is love. In Genesis we read, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27), and John wrote, "anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:8), and he goes on to say, "we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us, for God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them." (1 John 4:16).

The apostle Paul prayed, that through faith Christ would dwell in the hearts of all the redeemed, so that they would be rooted and grounded in love, and comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that they would be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:15-20). These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth, that to be filled with God is to be filled with the love of Christ. This is the purpose of Paul's Gospel; it is to bring us to the love of Christ, because whoever is filled with the Love of Christ is filled with the love of God, and whoever is filled with the love of God has eternal life.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIKE AND LOVE

A story is told, of an ancient philosopher being asked, "what is the difference between, I like you, and I love you?" The ancient and wise philosopher answered:

- When you like a flower, you cut it from its life force, so you can admire it, but when you love a flower, you water and nurture it, so it will enjoy the full beauty of life.

Relating this to human life, it carries the idea of using a person who we are attracted to because of their beauty for our own selfish needs and happiness, this is not love, but self-centredness and selfishness, in contrast to this, love is when we are attracted to the beauty of a person, and rather than use them to satisfy our own needs and happiness, we do all we can to enhance their life, protect them and fulfil their needs and happiness. This is the love Christ manifested on the bloodstained cross of calvary, for he laid his life down, not for himself, but for us, and he did this, not while we loved him and his heavenly Father, but while we were sinners (Rom.5:8), so that we could be united to God, and His love, and at the end of our life, receive eternal life.

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER (A TRUE STORY)

The following true story, is a good way of explaining God's Presence of love dwelling within the faithful in Christ. An eight-year-old girl with a disability, whose best friend was her mother was doing her first live stage show at her school. The mother loved her daughter but could not be at the opening show as she was in hospital having cancer treatment. A television reporter asked the young girl if she would be sad and miss her mother at the opening of the show. The small girl with tears in her eyes said, "Yes I will miss her, but she will be in my heart where she belongs."

6

Love for a person creates the reality and presence of that person in the human heart. This presence of the person is in direct proportion to the love (i.e., the greater the love the greater the presence). Every Christian, by looking at the bloodstained cross of Calvary, knows that God their heavenly Father and Jesus their Saviour, loves them, and from this great love, experience their unceasing Presence of love dwelling deeply in their inner most being.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

Bible House of Grace