

The Love of God: No Greater Love

Deuteronomy 4:33-39

³³ Has *any* people heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard *it*, and survived? ³⁴ Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within *another* nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵ To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him. ³⁶ Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire. ³⁷ Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power, ³⁸ driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in *and* to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is today. ³⁹ Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

We are loved by our God! And He is the Almighty, the One True God, and there is no other!

Does Vishnu love the Hindu? Does Allah love the Muslim?

How is it that God loves us? And how can we know whether or not we love God?

Why does God love us?

1 John 4:8 ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Because it's God's nature to love. He made us in His image, and in that sense, all humanity is loved as His children.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Deut 4:37a ³⁷ Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them.

God loves us because He chose us, chose to love us, and chose to make us the objects of His affections!

In spite of this, people are not going about seeking God and spontaneously loving Him back. Quite the opposite, in fact!

Psalms 14:2-3 ² The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.

This is the condition of humanity generally. God loves all the world generally, and humankind shuns Him in return.

But God, from the beginning, has been determined to have a people for Himself. These people, His chosen children, would be loved not generally, but specially, and would love Him in return with the same kind of love.

Example of this tension

1 Timothy 4:10 ¹⁰ For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

Jesus opened the door salvation to all and calls all men into it. Only those who respond in faith will KNOW His salvation.

So it is with the love of God. In a general sense, all are loved by God, but only His own will KNOW His love personally.

1 Peter 2:6-7 ⁶ For *this* is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner *stone*, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed." ⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner *stone*

John 15:13,15 ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends... ¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

It means something to be personally loved by God, to be in a Covenant of Love with God, and to be His exclusively!

What was our condition when He loved us and began to pursue us?

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

With God's love being given so generously to us when we were entirely undeserving, how can we even begin to love God?

This is not a new concern- it is the original concern!

1 John 4:10, 19 ¹⁰ 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...¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us.