

THE LOVE OF GOD

It's amazing how much the word Love is used in today's conversation: "I love that dress," "I love to eat," "I love you." But there has never been a greater demonstration of love than the love of God towards us. We can try to search the ends of the earth looking for love but nothing compares to the love that God has for us. According to John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Although many know this verse verbatim and even see the sign at football games, do we really comprehend the breath of this scripture? The God that made the heavens and the earth; the God that made the sun, the sky, the flowers, and everything else that we consider beautiful; He did not send His Son for those things. He made the ultimate sacrifice to save you and me. God saw what condition we were in and loved us enough not to leave us in that condition without hope. In Isaiah 59:1, 2 the Bible says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." When we are in sin, God, in His awesomeness, glory, reverence and purity, chooses not to deal with us. He makes a conscious decision not to hear our prayers, or hear our cries with intent to answer them because the scripture states that, "He will not hear." God, with His infinite love and wisdom, knew that we needed a way to wash our sins away. According to Romans 5:7 – 8, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." In Revelations 1:5 and 1 John 1:7 reveals that our sins could be washed away by getting in and staying in contact with the blood of Christ. How great a God we can serve? He was willing to send His only begotten Son to die a cruel death, even while we were still His enemy. Oh, what love!

Even with God's love and God's desire for all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9), not all men will be saved. God is looking for those who are willing to reciprocate the same love for the Lord as He has for us. God is

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looking for those who will obey Him. God will save those who are obedient to Christ, since Christ is the author of salvation (Hebrews 5:9). According to 1 John 5:3, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome," we reciprocate the love of God by being obedient to Him. According to John 14:15, Jesus says, "If you love Me, keep my commandments." The ultimate love that we can show God is to be obedient to Him. We can't continuously be disobedient and claim that we love the Lord. The death of Christ was God's love towards us and obedience is our love towards God. Let's love God.

Questions

1. How did God exhibit His love towards the world (John 3:16)?
2. What has separated us from God (Is. 59:1, 2)?
3. Who does God turn His ear from (Is. 59:1,2)? Then who does God turn His to (John 9:31)?
4. What condition were we in when God demonstrated His love (Romans 5:8)?
5. Who does God desire to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9)?
6. Who will be saved (Hebrews 5:9)?
7. How do we show our love to God (1 John 5:3, John 14:15)?