

Doctrine of the Love of God Revisited

1. With at least one exception, the love of God is spoken of in the past tense in Scripture. That exception is found in Revelation 1: 5.
 - *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved [lit. loves] us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

2. The love of God is spoken often in the past tense because it is an eternal love and so precedes creation.
 - *Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

3. There is a sense in which God loves the world and He loves lost sinners who are non-elect.
 - *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - *Mark 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*

3. The love of God is extended to individuals of His own choosing.
 - *Deuteronomy 4:37 And because he [God] loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;*

4. The love of God was openly and often declared to the objects of His grace and affection. Moreover the love of God moved Him to action.
 - Because of love Israel was redeemed from the land of bondage. *Deuteronomy 7:8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.* Every soul set free from the tyranny of sin is redeemed because of God's great love.
 - Because of love, cursing is turned to blessing. *Deuteronomy 23:5 Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.* The Christian can be assured the principle of grace still reigns as per Romans 8:28.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

- Because of love, God moves to discipline His own. *Proverbs 3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*
 - Because of love, God does not punish His own forever but restores them to fellowship. *Isa 43:3-5 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. 4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. 5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west.*
4. The response of the believer to the love of God is to sit at His feet and be taught His word.
 - *Deuteronomy 33:3 Yea, he [the LORD] loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.*
 5. The love of God for individuals is recognized and acknowledged by others. It can lead to their conversion,. The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon and came to faith when she saw the goodness of God to him. As a little orphan wants to be adopted into a family that shows love and great wealth, so the heart wants to be loved by the God of grace and glory.
 - *1 Kings 10:9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.*
 6. The love of God for a people is reflected in placing good rulers over them. The king of Tyre recognized this concept with Solomon, as did the queen of Sheba.
 - *2 Chronicles 2:11 Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them.*
 - *2 Chronicles 9:8 [And the queen of Sheba said] Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, to be king for the LORD thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice.*
 7. The love of God for individuals is stated plainly, for love needs a particular object of affection.
 - *Psalms 47:4 He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.*

8. The Messiah is the object of the Father's love. The passage in Hosea 11:1 is applied to the Messiah in Matthew 2:15.

- *Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*
- *Matthew 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.*

9. The love of God should never be questioned, and yet it is.

- *Malachi 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,*