

# "We Love Him, Because He First Loved Us"

## The Love of God

Text – 1 John 4:19

**Introduction:** The apostle Paul speaks of the "breadth, and length, and depth, and height" of the love of God-it is such an immeasurable and incomprehensible subject that preachers struggle with knowing how to approach it. A similar problem is in knowing that when you have said all you can say about the love of God, there will be more left unsaid than what you were able to say.

The best of sermons can only touch the hem of God's love to men. When I state that God loves me it is a truth of which I am fully convinced. I have doubted God's will and ways, I have questioned His wisdom in the circumstances of life, I have wondered about His willingness to answer my prayer, but I have never doubted God's love for me. There has never been a time in my life, whether in good times or bad, that it could be suggested that I was not loved. You could never convince of anything less. The devil has whispered in my ear that God didn't care for me, but his words have always fallen on deaf ears.

I have doubted:  
\*His Will  
\*His Ways  
\*His Wisdom  
\*His Willingness  
But not His Love!

The reason I know this so assuredly is because God has told me He loves me. The love of God is something that can be inferred by the many things God has done for us, but He does not leave it to an inference. Rather, He has declared His love and recorded it in His eternal Word. I do not surmise that God loves me from the works of creation; I read it where He declared emphatically that His love was toward me. I know He loves me because He told me He loved me.

Jesus Loves Me:  
\*He Said It  
Not Inferred  
Not Implied  
\*He Showed It  
Demonstrated To Me  
Dealt With Me

Another reason I know God loves me is because He has not just said it, but He has shown it. The demonstrations of His love toward me are too numerous to count: I have infallible and irrefutable proof that God loves me because of the way He has dealt with me. Only a God of love would bestow so many blessings on one's life. Only a God of love would forgive so many sins. Only a God of love would receive the prodigal again after so many times of wandering away.

It may not be evident that I love Him, but look at my life, and you will have to say that somebody loves me.

## 1.) The Love of God is First!

"We love him, because he first loved us." It is such a simple statement, but it is the essence of the love of God. The love of God to us precedes our love to God. God loved me before there was anything in me to love. I should have been seeking the love of God, trying to compel Him to love me. But instead He sought my love, compelling me to love Him.

Before I ever repented of my sin, God loved me. Before I ever exercised faith in Christ, God loved me. Before I opened my heart to the gospel, before I believed the witness of the Holy Spirit, before I accepted the sacrifice of Calvary for my pardon - God loved me. There are many things about you now that God could love, but they were not there at the first. You may be very devoted to Christ, but you were not so before God loved you. You may have a high degree of holiness in your life, but you were loved when you were unholy. You may be conformed in many ways to the image of Christ, but God loved you when that image was not there. No matter how early in life you began to love the Lord, His love was first.

\*Before I repented  
\*Before I exercised \*faith  
\*Before I believed  
\*Before I accepted  
\*Before I was devoted or holy, or conformed to His image

There was no reason in me for God to exercise His love for me. When He looked at me He found no grounds for love, but the reason was in His own nature. But what does that mean?

It means that the love of God is uncreated; therefore, it is unchangeable. If the love of God is seated in His character and not mine, then His character would have to change for Him not to love me. If God loved me because of what I had done or because of some good He saw in me, then I would have to keep that good thing to keep the love of God. But God loved me because it was His nature to love the unlovable. If God loved me because I was good, then when the goodness diminished the love would diminish, as well. But God loved me because He was good, and His goodness will never diminish.

God's Love:  
\*Uncreated  
\*Unchangeable  
His Love is seated in His character & nature, not mine!

## 2.) The Love of God is Firm!

Since I have known the love of God I have given Him 10,000 excuses not to love me any longer. Yet, in spite of all my ill manners, shortcomings and transgressions, coldness of heart and backsliding, He still loves me. He loved me when I was unlovable so that He could make me into something lovable. But

so many times I have done like Gomer and spurned the love of God. I have been everything but lovely and holy, yet even then God still loves me.

I did not earn His love in the beginning, and I do not keep His love by my own righteousness. He may not be pleased with me, but He will always love me. He may not bless me more abundantly if I stray from His will, but He will always love me. There have been times I have been out of His will, but I have never been out of His care.

The love of God is without beginning and it is without pause. There is never a moment when God does not love me. It is -without break from beginning to end; a single chain without a weak link to risk it breaking. It knows no seasons, it has no intermission, there is no hint of failure or an end to the love of God.

God's Love:  
\*Not earned  
\*Not kept  
\*Not forfeited  
\*Not prevented  
\*Never broken/paused  
\*No Intermissions  
\*No Seasons  
\*No Hint of Failure  
FIRM TO THE END!

### 3.) The Love of God is Full!

I am happy to say that I love the Lord now more than I ever have before, but I cannot say that He now loves me more than ever before. My love for Him is so much deeper - the more I learn of Him the more I love Him. But God loved me as fully as He could love me from the very beginning. He knew all there was to know about me yet He loved me from the very beginning with all the love of His heart. He cannot love me more, and He will not love me less. Nor is there any of you that God loves more than He loves me. You may love the Lord more than I love Him, but He does not love you more than He loves me.

There have been times when I did not love Him like I should, but there has never been a time when He did not love me with all His heart. There has never been a time when God did not love you as much as He loves you right now. You may at this day be at the your very lowest it may be that you have strayed farther away from God now than ever before - but God loves you as much as when you were the closest to Him. It may seem like your life is ruined, that everyone is loved but you, and that you are a miserable wretch that no one could possibly love, but God loves you.