

WHAT IS GOD'S LOVE??

Ephesians 3:17-19

Introduction:

1. Describing God's love is time old question for discussion.
 - A. It is compared to drinking the ocean dry with a straw.
 - B. It is compared to rearranging the sands of the sea 1 grain at a time.
2. Here in the key text, Paul deals with the comprehension of the dimensional love of God.
3. Some have said that God's love is so high you can't climb over it, so low that you can't dig under it, so wide that you can't get around it!
4. We can take psychological tests and everything, but God's love is beyond our calculations at best.
5. The best nutshell picture of God's love was the cross, and its dimensions as the height, depth, and breadth of God's love.
6. Today, I'm going to mention 7 cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith, and they all equal God's love.

I. MERCY EQUALS GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE.

1. Psalm 138:8 says, "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; forsake not the works of your own hands."
2. Luke 18:38-43 says, "And he cried, saying, Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me. And they who went ahead rebuked him, that he should hold his peace; but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto Him; and when he was come near, He asked him, Saying, What will you that I shall do unto you? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive your sight; your faith has saved you. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God."
3. Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, has made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved).

II. PROVIDENCE EQUALS GOD'S CARING LOVE.

1. I Kings 17:4-6 says, "And it shall be that you shall drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there. So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord; for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, which is before the Jordan. And the ravens brought him

bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening, and he drank of the brook."

2. My dad was behind enemy lines 3 days, and a peasant farmer fed the 3 of them for 3 days.
3. Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

III. KINDNESS EQUALS GOD'S UNDERSTANDING LOVE.

1. Romans 2:4 says, "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"
2. Titus 3:4-7 says, "But after the kindness and love of God, our Savior, toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that, being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."
3. God knew us, yet He loved us.

IV. CHRIST PASSION AND DEATH EQUALS GOD'S PROVEN LOVE.

1. John 3:16-19 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believes on Him is not condemned; but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."
2. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commends His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

V. HAPPINESS EQUALS GOD'S ENCOURAGING LOVE.

1. Psalm 146:5 says, "Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord, His God."
2. Proverbs 28:14 says, "Happy is the man that fears always, but he that hardens his heart shall fall into mischief."
3. John 13:17 says, "If you know these things happy are you if you do them."

VI. THE WILL OF GOD EQUALS GOD'S UNERRING LOVE.

1. I Thessalonians 4:3-4 says, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor."
2. Hebrews 10:36 says, "For you have need of patience that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise."
3. I Peter 2:15 says, "For so is the will of God, that with well-doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."
4. I Peter 3:17 says, "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that you suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing."
5. I John 2:17 says, "And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he that does the will of God abides forever."

VII. HEAVEN & ETERNITY EQUALS GOD'S REWARDING AND UNENDING LOVE.

1. John 10:10 says, "The thief comes not but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."
2. John 10:27-28 says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand."
3. John 14:3-4 says, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know and the way you know."

Conclusion:

1. I John 3:18 says, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."
2. John 13:35 says, "By this shall all men know you are my disciples if you have love one to another."