

Remnant Life Church

June 2, 2019

The Story of Love: Who Does God Love?

Part 1

Matthew 6:25-34

What we also said, that is vitally important to each of us, is what we know and think of God's love determines the foundation for how we love.

- So, the question this morning is, "Who does God love?"
- The easiest answer is simply, everyone
- But that does not fully answer the question, it actually almost dismisses it
- Who does God love specifically?
 - Because that is how we love, don't we?
 - In my life I love very pointedly and specifically

Before we explore that further it is necessary for us first to talk about "types" in the Bible

- Types are a form of something or someone else
 - In the Bible they are specifically used as a foretelling of someone yet to come
 - And that someone was Jesus
- Joseph, Moses, and Elijah are all called types of Jesus
 - By how they lived and what they accomplished
 - Joseph and Moses as they saved their people from starvation and slavery just as Jesus saved us all from death
 - Elijah lived a powerful call to repentance and righteousness just as Jesus called all to live right in the eyes of God and obey the law in love
- Their lives present patterns for us to recognize and then see in Jesus
- In academic terms it is called *typology*

The typology of love begins in the Garden of Eden

- A type of love in Genesis is the marriage covenant (leave, cleave, one flesh)
- That same type of love is then repeated later but this time, not between a man and a woman, but between God and a group of people – Israel
- Then, as we go into the NT the same language of love is repeated regarding Christ's love for the church
 - Because of those types already given we can go back through the OT for examples of what that love means
 - In other words, what does it mean that Christ loves the church like a bridegroom loves a bride?
 - Well, how was a man to love a woman in the marriage covenant?
 - How did God love the nation of Israel?
 - Revealed in those, we begin to better understand how Christ loves the church, meaning how He loves each of us

It is this pattern that allows us to reexamine the verse in **I John 4:8**, ...*God is love* - and begin to, not only comprehend what it means but then how to pattern my own life, my own love, after God's pattern of love.

So, who does God love?

1. God the Father Loves the Son
 - a. God is, and always has been eternal (without beginning and without end)
 - b. And so, there was never a time that God was not expressing love for another
 - i. But who would that be?
 - ii. There could only be One
 - c. The Father has always loved the Son, and the Son has always loved the Father
 - i. **John 17:5** - *Father glorify me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began.*
 - ii. Because of His eternal nature, God cannot be God without love
 - iii. Why? Because *God is love*
 - d. As we have said before, love is not simply an attribute of God
 - i. For instance, God is wrathful toward sin
 - ii. But the Bible never says God is wrath
 1. That is because His wrath is tied to something outside of Himself – sin
 2. Prior to sin, God's wrath had no expression
 - iii. But there has never been a time when God was not love
 - iv. Absent of His wrath God is still God – the same is true of His mercy, His grace, His patience
 - v. Absent of His love, God cannot be God – because He IS love!
 - vi. There has never been a moment past, nor a moment to come when He is not love
 - e. And that is vividly seen in the life and ministry of Jesus throughout the NT
 - i. But it is the OT that prepares us to see that through the types seen in the lives of those patriarchs
 - ii. Another example can be found when we look at God's love for David
 1. **Psalm 2, 20, 110**, and others
 2. God made a special covenant of love agreement with David
 3. In that covenant, we see a pattern, or type, of the love of the Father for the Son which is then revealed to each of us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
 - f. So then what does that mean to us and our understanding of love?
 - i. First, it provides an eternal assurance of God's love
 1. When Moses came back down from Mt. Sinai with the ten commandments He gave the people the law of God, he said...
 2. **Duet 7:9** - *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

3. It is that same love for you and me that is repeated in **John 3:16** but now ‘whosoever’ (meaning any and every one for all time) replaces a ‘thousand generations’
 - ii. Second, it serves to remind us that life and even love are not just about ‘me.’
 1. Again, **John 3:16** tells us that God loved the world
 2. The word “world” in the original language is Kahz-mahs
 - a. Where we get the word cosmos
 - b. It means not only this world but the entire universe
 3. In knowing that, can it help us to be more loving, kind, and patient with others?
 4. To not take ourselves so seriously?
 5. To come to the place of realizing that every aspect of life does not revolve around whether I agree, am happy, or approve of what is happening in my very small part of the world?
 6. You see it is the inability to do that which provides the ground for satan to make ego, and self-centeredness a primary stumbling block in your life
 - g. God’s love is eternal, it is universal, and it begins with the Father’s love for the Son
2. God Loves the World - He loves the world in 2 distinct ways
- a. God loves creation, the work of His hands
 - i. **Prov 8** tells us that He delights in every part of His creation
 - ii. **Matt 10:28-29** - *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.*
 - iii. **READ** - **Matt 6:25-34**
 - iv. Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived
 1. He constantly used creation as a way to teach the people the foundational principles of His Father and the Kingdom of Heaven
 2. He also used creation when talking about God’s love
 - v. This entire segment of Scripture is Jesus teaching on the senselessness of worry
 1. He says if even the grass is cared for in splendor by God why are you, His greatest and most loved creation, worrying?
 2. He calls that having little faith!
 - vi. The analogy used here by Jesus (if the grass and flowers are cared for why would you not believe He would care for you?) is called ‘contrastive depreciation’
 1. The focus in this verse is not the grass of the field, but rather on how little God actually cares for them in relationship or contrast to His care for you!
 2. His love for you is so much greater than all those things of such great beauty so why are you worrying about anything in your life?

- vii. God's creation is much more than a place for us to live – It is the living, growing, perfect example of God's greater love for us
- b. God loves His creation and also loves rebellious humanity
 - i. Even in God's righteous, unwavering wrath against sin, He still loves a world that hates Him
 - ii. Every day we continue to witness more and more attempts to remove God from our lives
 - 1. It has been proposed recently by the party of the house majority to remove the words "so help me God" from the oath of a courtroom or any swearing-in ceremony
 - 2. In addition there has been an on-going attempt to remove "In God We Trust" from newly printed money as well as the 10 Commandments from public buildings
 - 3. Their response is that it is an effort to remove faith-based language from government
 - 4. Yet, at the same time, that same majority party is attempting to strike down a 181-year-old referendum restricting religious headwear, to accommodate the recently elected female muslim representatives
 - 5. This is not an effort to remove religion from government it is a blatant attack against Christianity
 - iii. While this deeply disturbs and even angers us, our image and understanding of God must be an accurate one
 - 1. In our minds and thinking how can God not be furious and want this stiff-necked, rebellious people to be punished for their arrogance?
 - 2. But it is actually just the opposite
 - a. *Ezek 18:23 - Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked declares the Sovereign LORD? Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?*
 - b. *Ezek 33:11 - 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!*
 - 3. This leads us back again to the ever-familiar **John 3:16**
 - 4. Because Jesus is the physical, visible, demonstration of God's love for all humanity
 - iv. When we acknowledge and embrace the truth of God's love for us, we can then demonstrate that same love to others BECAUSE of His love for us.

What are we learning about love this morning?

1. Love is a creation by God, given to us, because it is the nature of who He is, always has been, and always will be

- a. We have been created to love others and receive love because we were made in His image
 - b. His eternal love began, not with the creation of the universe, but in the eternal past with the love of the Father for the Son and the Son for the Father
 - c. That eternal love is inextinguishable and inexhaustible in its depth and power
2. God loves rebellious people
- a. In other words, He loves you and He loves me
 - b. To embrace that eternal truth should bring with it a change in our thinking and our perception of God's love
 - c. We must stop trying to put God in the box of our understanding
 - i. God is not bound by our definition of love
 - ii. God is not bound to our perception of fair
 - iii. God's love is not bound in any way to that which our limited minds can comprehend
3. To know these two foundational aspects of God's love means we rest in the knowledge that He loves us now and has since before we were born
4. Now, satan will try his very hardest to convince you that God does not, could not, cannot love you.
- a. What does the Bible call satan?
 - b. The father of lies; lying is his native-tongue; it is the only thing he can do – **John 8:44**
 - c. So, if he is telling you God does not love you, it must be and will always be a lie!