

Remnant Life Church

June 23, 2019

The Story of Love: How Does God Love?

I John 3:1-3

In this series The Story of Love, we have said:

1. Love is about emotion certainly but also much more
 - a. Love is a choice – to give and receive
 - b. Love is more than words it is action
 - c. The greatest love story is the story of God's love for us
2. Who does God love?
 - a. God the Father loves God the Son
 - b. God loves the world
 - c. God loves creation
3. God loves us through the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Pentecost in the OT the giving of the law
 - b. Pentecost in the NT the giving of the Holy Spirit

We have looked at **who** God loves, this morning **how** does God love?

This is important to know for three reasons:

1. It confirms for us the fundamental truth that God is love
2. It serves as a foundation for our acceptance and belief in God's love for us
3. It provides a blueprint to follow for us to love others

Begin with understanding what how we love means

The 5 Love Languages – Dr. Gary Chapman

- Words of Affirmation
 - Gifts
 - Acts of Kindness
 - Physical Touch
 - Quality Time
- Each of us has a “love tank.”
 - It is that tank, and how much it is in it, that gives us our sense of how much we are loved, as well as our capability to love others
 - When our tank is full – we are satisfied, content, secure, and feel loved
 - When it is empty or low – we feel anxious, underappreciated, undervalued and unloved
 - When it is low or empty, we also have a very limited, if not inability to love others
 - Of those 5 languages very person has a primary love language which, when he or she is loved in that language, it fills their tank

- We each also have one or more secondary languages that also contribute to the filling
- The secret to a loving relationship (i.e. – within marriage) is to love that person in their love language
- But that presents two primary challenges
 - First – what is their primary love language?
 - Second – it is only natural that I would love other people in the love language that works for me – it's the one I know the best
- Example:
 - My primary language is acts of service
 - Katerina's is quality time
 - Those are the ones that fill our love tanks the quickest and fullest
 - If I try and love her with acts of service alone or primarily without focusing on the time we spend together, it will frustrate her and her tank will get low
 - My focus must be on making sure that I love her in the language that fills her tank
- This is what it means to answer the question – how do I love?

Certainly, God's love extends far outside these five that apply to us and our limited capacity to love and comprehend love

We are simply trying to live within the boundaries and understanding of love – but God IS love!
(I John 4:8)

Look at just three of the ways that answer the question – How does God love?

1. God loves providentially
 - a. He shows His love for providing for everyone
 - b. **Matt 5:45** - ...*He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*
 - c. The Children of Israel
 - i. How many times did the COI turn their backs of God, grumble and complain, and even follow other gods?
 - ii. Not after hundreds of years
 1. How long had they been out of Egypt before they turned from God?
 2. 50 days! – the first Pentecost when they made the golden calf while Moses was still on the mountain! (**Ex 32**)
 - iii. Yet God provided water, food (manna and quail), light and warmth at night (pillar of fire), and guidance along the way (pillar of cloud)
 - d. The creation of God's world is for everyone
 - e. If we are to understand suffering in this world we must see it in the context of God's providential love
 - i. God orders our lives so that we either value Him more than this world

- ii. Or else be left without excuse for our unbelief
- iii. Those who shake their fist and say there is no God live in the world of His provision
- iv. The suffering of this life is only a foretaste of what awaits the eternal suffering for those who deny and reject God

2. God loves sacrificially

- a. The typology (or example) of this is seen in the OT
 - i. Abraham being called to sacrifice his son Isaac (a foretelling)
 - ii. The Levitical sacrifices in the law
 - iii. All sacrifice of the OT points toward the greatest sacrifice given on a cross just outside of Jerusalem
- b. For all of eternity God the Father loved God the Son, yet He poured the full measure of His wrath for the sins of the world on Him
 - i. In that moment, Jesus became the substitutionary sacrifice to pay the penalty for your sin, for mine, for the whole world
 - ii. Why did God do this?
 - 1. For sinners
 - 2. For His enemies
 - 3. For those who hated Him and those who hate Him still
 - iii. To love sacrificially is to love unconditionally
 - 1. Example: The Prodigal Son
 - 2. [Luke 15:11-32](#)
- c. How different the truth of God's love is from what so many people think He is
 - i. Many think He is this mean God looking for someone to just step out of line so He can punish them
 - ii. Others that He is this benevolent old grandfather-type who winks at you when you mess up and sweeps it under the carpet
 - iii. Others that He is completely disinterested in us or our lives with far more important things to deal with
 - iv. Nothing could be further from the truth!

3. God loves perfectly

- a. **READ - I John 3:1-3**
- b. God loves us perfectly just as we need to be loved for where we are right now
- c. And just as He loves perfectly, so too His love is perfecting us
 - i. In other words, God's love for us in Christ is changing us to be more like Christ
 - ii. Knowing and trusting in the love of God, in spite of our circumstances, helps us to live more like Christ every day
- d. Example: The transformation of Saul to Paul ([Acts 9](#))
- e. Yet so many question God's wisdom when it comes to our lives
 - i. IF GOD LOVED ME why did I lose my job?
 - ii. IF GOD...why did my child get in with the wrong crowd and get in trouble?
 - iii. IF GOD...why do struggle with X in my life
 - iv. IF GOD...why is my life like it is?

- f. The truth is – the perfection of God’s love for us is not measured by how well He is managing the agenda, wants, and needs of your life
 - i. The perfection of God’s love is seen in His desire for your life
 - ii. To have a life growing into a greater likeness to the Son He loves so dearly

God loves providentially

God loves sacrificially

God loves perfectly

In our lives –

- To love providentially means giving of ourselves to others
- To love sacrificially means giving and loving without expectation of return
- To love as perfectly as we can means loving in a way that reflects the love of God’s Son, Jesus Christ

READ - I John 4:7-12

- Chapman writes that we each have a love tank
- I believe we have 2
 - One is the relational tank we spoke of earlier
 - The other is the spiritual tank
 - Because of God’s love that one is always full
 - The question is, how often do we access it and share it with others?
 - That is the tank from where we begin to “love wastefully”
- That is how we should love one another!