

Remnant Life Church

June 30, 2019

The Story of Love: Who Does God Love?

Part 2

Deut 7:6-9

Who does God love started with understanding “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, Elijah, even David are all called types of Jesus
 - By how they lived and what they accomplished
- Their lives presented patterns for us to then recognize and see in Jesus
- In academic terms it is called *typology*

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

So, who does God love?

- There are four we are looking at – the first two...
 1. God the Father Loves God the Son
 - God’s love is eternal, it is universal, and it begins with the Father’s love for the Son
 2. God Loves the World -
 - a. God loves creation, the work of His hands
 - i. His love for you is so much greater than all the great beauty of His creation - why would we allow even a thought of doubt or worry regarding anything in our lives?
 - ii. God’s creation is much more than a place for us to live – It is the living, growing, perfect example of His greater love for us
 - b. Since God loves His creation that includes us – in spite of how often we turn our backs, shake our fists, or use His name to curse someone
 - i. Even in God’s righteous, His unwavering wrath against sin, He still loves a world that hates Him
 - ii. We continue to find more and more ways to remove God from our lives

And so to answer the question of “Who Does God Love?”

- God the Father loves God the Son
- God loves the creation of His hands, the world...
 3. God Loves His Own People Distinctively
 - a. What does that mean?

- b. Throughout the story of God's love found in the Bible, God makes a clear distinction between His love of people His creation, and His love of people, those He has chosen
 - i. Again, come back to **John 3:16** – *God so loved the world...*
 - ii. But in regard to Israel...

READ – Deut 7:6-9

1. When did this choosing occur?
 2. When God appeared to Abraham in **Gen 17** and told him He would make him, though his descendants, a great nation
 3. God tested Abraham in **Gen 22** to sacrifice his son, Isaac, and when he did not hesitate to obey God, God confirmed and increased the covenant agreement
- c. What was that lineage of descendants?
 - i. Abraham was the father of Isaac, who was the father of Jacob, who had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel
 - ii. It was the descendants of those 12 tribes who were kept in bondage in Egypt, were freed by God under the leadership of Moses, and went into Canaan, which would become the nation of Israel, with Joshua leading them
 - d. The promise continued...
 - i. God then said that a descendant of David (from the line of Abraham) would continually sit on the throne as long as the obeyed God
 1. Of course, they did not, even becoming a divided kingdom after the death of King Solomon
 2. But God's love continued still
 - e. Because it would be from the line of David that God would send His Son to demonstrate the ultimate act of His great love
 - i. Jesus – who would make a way for all who called on His name to be saved
 - f. Why did God choose Israel?
 - i. Because they were the biggest and most powerful nation?
 1. No
 2. **Deut 6:7** - *The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.*
 - ii. Because they were better or more righteous than anyone else?
 1. Certainly not
 2. You can read through the account of the Exodus how often they turned their backs on Him and worshipped other gods
 - iii. He chose them simply because He loved them
 1. **Deut 6:8** - *But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

2. God loved them simply because He did, just as He loves us – that's all we need to know

4. God Loves Sinners

- a. The most meaningful element of what we have talked about over the last several weeks is in this fact – God loves sinners
 - i. Without this truth there is no hope – for anyone
 - ii. The very best person you know is still born in sin and in need of the Savior (**Rom 6:23**)
- b. This is a foreign concept of love to us
 - i. God is not like us – we love people who we believe deserve to be loved
 - ii. God's love is free, unconditional, and unmerited
 - iii. **Rom 5:8** - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- c. God's love not only cannot be earned, but it is given in spite of reasons to the contrary
 - i. If we merit anything, it is wrath of God and death
 - ii. But His mercy and grace and love cover us, not in the penalty we deserve, but the love we do not
- d. In Paul's closing prayer in his letter to the church in Ephesus he writes these words
 - i. **Eph 3:14-18** *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how **wide and long and high and deep** is the love of Christ,*
- e. I want us to grasp this morning the meaning of those four descriptive words –
- f. God's love is...
 - i. ...**wider** than the breach or gulf your sin has made with God
 - ii. ...**long** enough to reach back into your past and forward to your eternal future
 - iii. ...**high** enough to bring you directly into His very presence
 - iv. ...**deep** enough so that it will never run dry

Demonstrated and shown in and through Christ, God loves sinners!

How does knowing who God loves impact us and our love for others?

1. It brings your heart, your mind, and your spirit to knowing, with absolute certainty, that God loves you.
 - a. Not with the love we understand and live within
 - b. But a love that is undeserved, unmerited, and unquenchable
2. It provides an inexhaustible reservoir for us to draw from in order to be able to love others

- a. Chapman's book – our love tank that needs to be constantly refilled
 - b. God's "love tank" never runs out and is never anything other than completely full and running over
 - c. We can love others because He first loved us (I John 4:19)
3. It provides a model, a blueprint for us to follow
- a. While it is true we are incapable of loving in the same way God does...
 - b. We should always desire, always strive, always attempt to love in a way that is beyond what we might feel like or think we can (Corrie Ten Boom)

If we could begin to implement and show just a faint whisper of God's love into our own lives, and live that love within our families and our churches – we're not even speaking of those outside the church who do not love or know the Lord but our own families and churches – we would see such a radical change take place among the people of God that division, splits, even denominations would begin to fade away.

And so, for the story of love, is this an impossible ending? Not when we desire and are committed to living a life where God is the author of our story!