

God Acts by Love

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

We are looking at the Love of God, not the love of mankind but God's love for mankind.

1. The essence of God is love. God is not love in His essence but love by His essence. Therefore, God loves by Himself and from Himself not by participation from another. Since His love was not received from another, He is love by His own nature. He could not receive His love from the ones He created, both they, the ones He created and His love are older than they are. He is absolutely His own love, He needed not to make Him loving. He is absolutely His own love, He needed none to make Him love, but all creatures needed Him to be of love. Creatures are made loving by being made so by Him. He is not the being of God and then afterwards loving; but He is loving as He is God. **‘we love because He first loved us.’**
2. God is the prime and chief of love. Nothing can add to Him or make His love more than He is, nothing can detract from Him to make His love less. Nothing can be added to Him or subtracted from Him. Not the presence of any creature can cause Him to love more and not any can make Him less that He is.

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Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, who pardons in iniquity And passes over a rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love

3. God is omnipotent. Therefore, no love can be wanting to him. If He were destitute of anything which He could have, He would not be almighty. God is necessarily love! Nothing or no creature is necessarily love but God Himself, He is as necessarily loving as He is necessarily God. His love is as inseparably from His nature as His Holiness. He is love by nature, not only by will to love but as He is Holy by nature. He is love in His nature and love in His actions. It is not necessary that God should create a world. He was of Himself to make His own decision to create or not create. But when He resolves to make a world, it is necessary that He should make it of love, because He is love and He cannot act against His own nature.

4. The more excellent anything is that is created by God, the more of His love and kindness it has in its creation. The more perfect anything is, the more it does communicate His love. He is the cause of all created of love, He must therefore Himself be the supreme love! God cannot love richer than all His creation. God's judgments in the world do not infringe His love! The justice of God is part of His love. God Himself though His love was in His justice, when God declared that *His wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*. Romans 1:18. It is of His love, to hate evil, and therefore a substance of His love to discipline it. It is no less righteousness to give according to the deserts of a person in a way

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of punishment than to reward a person that responds in faith to His Son. His love therefore shines in His justice, for without being just He could not be love. Now, as He gives His justice His love remains in effect. But if He does not give justice His righteousness is no longer in effect. For all eternity His love is in effect while His Justice is fulfilled for all eternity. The total attributes of God must be in existence. His righteousness must always be without destroying His love. The Justice of God must always be in effect without destroying His love. His justice does not infringe His love by the sending His Son to the cross, being the judgment of everyone's sins. His love stays in operation with the praise of His Son in His declaration in His session to heaven and seated Him at His right hand above the angels. His love therefore shines in His justice. Sin is a moral disorder in the world. Every sin is injustice. Injustice breaks God's order in the world, this is made clear at the first sin of Adam. It is necessary for Justice to put the world in order. But His love remains in order. *Those I love I discipline*. Is not a hatred of the sin of Adam, of what is bad and unworthy, as much a part of divine love? What happened to Adam is as much of His love as His hatred of sin. For Adam was declared spiritually dead in order that He might also be spiritually alive by means of faith.

5. Is not it a manifestation of His love to make laws, added with judgments? The more severe the laws the more deterring their evil sins made for the welfare of the society. The design of laws, and the design of upholding the honor of those laws by the punishment of offenders, is to promote love and restrain evil. He hath promised life and happiness to them that obey. Is He less love because he will not distribute His goodness to those that despise Him? The heathen never thought God is bad because He was just, nor unrighteous because He was just.

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Romans 1:14 “For when Gentiles who do not have the law do instinctively the things of the Law, these not having the Law are a law to themselves.

To discipline wickedness is right, therefore also loving. To leave men uncontrolled in their wickedness is unrighteous, and therefore unjust. Is not God of love and of Grace to discipline men of their sinful ways. To punish sinfulness is right, therefore loving! To leave men uncontrolled in their sinfulness is unrighteous and therefore unloving. God’s judgments in the world does not infringe on His love. The justice of God is a part of the love of His nature. It would not be the justice of God, but rather folly to let laws which were made to promote virtue, to be broken from discipline. What would this do to man? Would not this be to weaken virtue and give life to vice?

Romans 7:12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (And is it not the love of God to advance that which is righteous?)

6. Not to discipline sinfulness, wickedness, would be a lack of love of Himself. It would be a weakness of God, of His love, if there were no discipline, in fact wouldn’t this weaken His love? It would be weakness of love to be weakening of His laws.

Psalms 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; Love and truth go before you

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Man would forget his relation with God, God would be unknown to be sovereign of the world if He were careless with His judgment.

Psalm 9:16 The Lord has made Himself known, He has executed judgment. In the work of His own hands the wicked is snared.

It is part of His love to preserve the essential order between Himself and His creatures. Is it not of His love, to secure His own honor, to prevent further evil? Is it not from His love to discourage men by judgments than to be of a love that frees man to live in sin? Must God be unfavorable to Himself to be kind to His enemies? Must God change the understanding of love to change Himself to His enemies? The world is dishonored by sin, as well as God is wronged by it! How could God love if He violated His own honor? All His attributes, which are part of His love cause Him to discipline sin. Without discipline, He would run down His authority, His truth disgraced, and His love disgraced!

7. Discipline is not the intention of God. From His love He hath no desire to discipline. The principal intention of God in His laws was to encourage His love that He might encourage more of love. God desires to honor the Law, and discipline the breaking of the Law and rewarding those who love one another. This is why it is desire of God.

Mark 12:30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

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Mark 12:31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

God hates the sin not the sinner! He hates the destruction from sin, not a sinner!

8. Creation and His love!

Creation from God proceeds from His love! It is the love of God that a multitude of things came from nothing that was. Because God is love things have a beginning. The beginning of present things is much more excellent than not being at all. God did not create things because He was living but because of He was loving! Because God created out of His love all things were created. And creation was the beginning of eternity not the end because of His love of them. Creation was the first act by love. That is when He was alone from Eternity. He contended Himself with Himself in His own blessedness. He was in love with His own righteousness. The creation was of His own love directed toward His own love. Creation was not an act of mercy but an act of Love! There is not one creature that does not have a character of His love. He created angels. He created humans. It is impossible to not see His love in His Creation. Not a drop of creation is not without a drop of His love. No other attribute of God could be more the motive of His creating, than His love. His love was the cause that He created first of all. His *wisdom* was the cause that He made everything in order and in harmony.

The fall of angels caused Him to put everything into freeze. Then His love was the cause of His restoration of His creation and the creation of mankind. When God created and designed mankind it was out of His own image. He created man out of His own image, a

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fact that is repeated twice in one verse. (Genesis 1:27) Because God's design and creation of mankind was in His own image implies that God has ownership over our lives. God has a plan for everyone. God's ultimate will is the endowment of His Kingdom as per Daniel 2:44 and for the glory of God as per 1 Corinthians 10:31 and the salvation and sanctification of His children through or by His own Son, Jesus the Christ. And why did God create mankind in His own image? For fellowship with mankind! as per His own Son for all eternity. John 17. He created mankind in the image of Himself, He did not create them in the image of angels. He created mankind to be above angels and in fellowship with Himself. He was to make mankind in the image of his own maker. God created man, angels did not create him. God created man in His own image, not therefore in the image of angels. The nature of God and the nature of angels are not the same. Nowhere in the Scriptures is man said to be in the image of angels. But man is created in the image of God Himself. Herein is the Love of God displayed that He made man after His own image. Out of His love did He make man of His own image. How great is His love that has made us in His own image when He could have created us lower as even the angels.

9. His love and the Gospel.

The whole gospel is nothing but one entire giving of God's love. When man fell from created love, God knew that He Himself would not fall from His infinite love. Divine love would not fall from His own love but offer sinful man a way to be restored. From His love, He would send the redeeming death of His own Son.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

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It may be no less said of the love of God as of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:9 By this the love of God was revealed in us, that God has sent His only Son into the world so that we may live through Him.

God was in no need of creating us, and therefore had far less need of redeeming us. For since he created one world, He could have as easily destroyed it and created another. Think about this! There was less necessity to restore mankind than to restore the fallen angels. Therefore it is so rich that the apostle speaks of the gospel of redemption, he gave the title as **the glorious gospel of the blessed God.** 1 Timothy 1:11.

10. The effects of the gospel proclaiming His great love.

In creation He reared us from nothing; in redemption He delivers us to even a higher place of love than before. In other words, we now are lifted to a higher place of love in redemption to exceed that of creation. He raised us much higher in redemption than we ever imagined in original creation. His love astonished us in our belief so far above our coming into being. There is more of His love expressed in the one verse **so God loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son**, in John 3:16, than there is in the whole of the book itself. In creation, He formed an innocent creature of the dust of the ground; in redemption He restored a rebellious sinning

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creature by the blood of His Son; it is greater than that love ever manifested in creation. In creation mere nothing was vanquished to bring us into being; but in redemption hostility was changed for the enjoyment of our restoration. This love is greater than that manifested in creation. But this was a far more expensive than what was laid out in creation.

11. Today, February 27, 2022 things are very tense throughout the world today with the war with Russia. But our God is still revealing His love. So let us continue to be in prayer daily for our Christian brothers throughout Europe and Christians in Russia and for believers throughout the world. I don't think we are too far away from Jesus coming from the third heaven to our world. So lets be in fervent prayer. Let us spend our time now in His Word, in Ephesians, Judges and Hebrews and let us be in prayer for each other at this time. We are challenged to keep praying for each other in His Word. I am so thankful that we are studying on His love!
12. This love is greater than the manifestation of His love in creation in regards to its cost in redemption. This was more expensive love than what was laid out in creation.

Psalm 49:7 No one can by any means redeem another Or give God a ransom for him—

Psalm 49:8 For the redemption of his soul is priceless, And he should cease imagining forever—

Psalm 49:9 That he might live on eternally, that he might not undergo decay

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He must be in a manger in Bethlehem, and die upon a cross, and spotless must He be made sinful. This was because man was not worthy of a blessing but worthy of a curse. His love in redemption is greater than any love expressed to the fallen angels. In God's given of Jesus to be our redeemer was His giving the highest gift that it was possible for divine love to bestow. It was a greater gift of love because it was His only begotten son, not an angel. But He gave that Son whom He commands *all the angels to worship*. Hebrews 1:6. And for all man to worship.

Psalm 2:12 Kiss (to homage to) the Son, that He not be angry and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

John 5:23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the who sent Him.

Divine love centered in Him, both in His cross, and in His crown; for it was for the purging of our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

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Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing.”

Revelation 5:13 And I heard every created thing which is in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, or on the sea, and all the things in them, saying, “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion forever and ever.”