

THE AMAZING LOVE OF GOD

I JOHN 3:1

INTRO: What is LOVE? That answer to that question would really vary depending upon who you asked. In many ways in modern culture, the word “LOVE” has been cheapened to the point that in certain situations it practically means nothing! The Bible tells us that **GOD IS LOVE** and many of us can remember singing a little chorus with that title from the time we were children in Sunday School. Even though love may have been cheapened in the ways of the world, **it certainly has not been cheapened in the eyes of God and it never will be! BUT WHAT IS THE LOVE OF GOD ALL ABOUT?** I am sure many of us would find it difficult to explain the AMAZING LOVE OF GOD! We just know that GOD IS LOVE and through **FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE AS OUR PERSONAL SAVIOR** we can experience His AMAZING LOVE. But how deep and wide, and broad and high is the LOVE OF GOD? Many of us have no clue, and yet the Bible tells us we can know the greatness of the LOVE OF GOD. For instance, Ephesians 3:17-19 says:

“THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS BY FAITH; THAT YE, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE, MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH, AND LENGTH, AND DEPTH, AND HEIGHT; AND TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST WHICH PASSETH KNOWLEDGE, THAT HE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULNESS OF GOD.” **SO, HOW IS THAT AMAZING LOVE OF GOD KNOWN?** A study of 1 John 3:1 is a step toward understanding THE AMAZING LOVE OF GOD! LET’S STUDY!

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I. THE UNBELIEVABLE REALTY OF GOD’S AMAZING LOVE

“BEHOLD, WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HATH BESTOWED UPON US...”

NOTE: THE WORD “BEHOLD” IS A CALL TO “PAY ATTENTION” TO WHAT IS GOING TO BE SAID....SO PAY ATTENTION!

A. The Manner of God’s Love

-GOD’S AMAZING LOVE is far beyond mankind’s ability to comprehend!

1. God’s Love is Universal – John 3:16
2. God’s Love is Everlasting – Jeremiah 31:3
3. God’s Love is Inseparable – Romans 8:35-39
4. God’s Love is Living – 1 John 4:9,10
5. God’s Love is Commendable – Romans 5:8
6. God’s Love is Sacrificial – Galatians 2:20
7. God’s Love is Great – Ephesians 2:4

B. The Bestowal of God’s Love

-GOD’S LOVE IS BESTOWED which means IT WAS FREELY GIVEN!

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE UNIMAGINABLE RESULT OF GOD’S AMAZING LOVE

“THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED THE ‘SONS OF GOD’”

NOTE: THIS STATEMENT IN ITSELF IS FAR BEYOND ANY PERSON’S WILDEST IMAGINATION WHEN CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF THE DOCTRINES OF THEOLOGY (the study of God) AND ANTHROPOLOGY (the study of mankind).

NOTE: THIS STATEMENT IN AND OF ITSELF INDICATES THE AMAZING GREATNESS OF GOD’S LOVE!

A. Prior to our salvation, we are the CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL!

-Ephesians 2:1-3. Cp. John 8:44

B. Subsequent to our salvation, we are the CHILDREN OF GOD!

WITH ALL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES!

-John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE UNDENIABLE RELATIONSHIP TO GOD’S AMAZING LOVE

“THE WORLD KNOWETH US NOT BECAUSE IT KNEW HIM NOT.”

-As the unsaved world cannot understand God, neither can it understand the Children of God!

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE UNQUESTIONABLE RESPONSE TO GOD’S AMAZING LOVE

“WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.” - 1 JOHN 4:19

A. God’s Great Love for Us, Compels us to Love Him – 2 Cor. 5:14,15

B. God’s Great Love for Us, Compels us to Trust Him – 2 Cor. 5:14,15

C. God’s Great Love for Us, Compels us to Submit to Him – 2 Cor. 5:14,15

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON: **GOD’S LOVE REACHES OUT TO ALL OF US! RECEIVE GOD’S LOVE AND ENJOY HIS FELLOWSHIP FOREVER!**