

## WHY DOES GOD LOVE US?

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This question has troubled many over the centuries. There are those who feel that they cannot be saved because they cannot believe that God loves them and therefore reject this out of hand.

The question is probably unanswerable satisfactorily to many.

God does not love us because we are lovable or deserving of His love. Jeremiah 17.9 says that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. In the end of Romans 7, Paul laments that the good he wants to do he does not, but the evil he does not want to do, he does.

1 John 4.8 clearly reminds us that God I love. But we must not take this as God being a pushover. Romans 11.22 reminds of the severity of God as well as His love. God is not mocked (Galatians 6. 7)

Yet He is love. He is not willing that any should perish but that all may come to a knowledge of all the truth.( 2 Peter 3.9 ).He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked ( Ezekiel 18.23 etc )

God is love. It is what He is. It is His essential character. And He is immutable. He does not change. Unlike us, He is not moody or changeable. He is consistent in His love.

We may all have characteristics which do not change. There may be many things in which we are unmovable. Sadly, there are some Christians who will not change even when the Scripture may show them to be inaccurate on some issue. As one example, some Pentecostals and charismatics insist that unless you speak in tongues you are not saved.

A leopard cannot change his spots. God cannot stop loving you whoever or whatever you are. He cannot lie. He is the God of Justice. He is fair and never deceived. Genesis 49.9 says, Shall not the Judge of all the earth do that which is right? It is a rhetoric question. He is immutable.

We are not. We can be moody and changeable. We can like someone one moment and think a little differently shortly afterwards. We can wind people up and they can do the same ourselves even unintentionally.

When the people of Judah went astray, God spoke through Jeremiah and God said of His people, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness will I draw thee.

In Zechariah 2.8 God speaks of His people as the apple of his eye. Zephaniah speaks of His people and that God will rejoice over them. Psalm 103 4 speaks of the Lord God with these word, He has redeemed you and crowns you with love and compassion. Elsewhere it is recorded that the Lord's love is with them that fear Him.

On the Cross, the Lord spoke to the crowd Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. One translation says they know not whom they are doing this to.

God's love, which is also shown in Christ, is unconditional.

The old CSSM chorus says

He did it for me,  
He did it for me.  
There on the Cross

He did it for me.  
Oh how I love Him,  
He suffered,  
He died,  
And He did it for me.

William Young Fullerton wrote

I cannot tell why He whom angels worship  
Should set His love upon the sons of men.  
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wand'ers  
To bring them back, they know not how or when.

Another wrote

It passeth knowledge, that dear love of Thine,  
My Jesus, Saviour, yet this soul of mine  
Would of Thy love, in all its breadth and length,  
Its height and depth, its everlasting strength.  
Know more and more.

And when my Saviour face to face I see,  
When at His lofty throne I bow the knee.  
Then of His love, in all its breadth and length,  
Its height and depth, its everlasting strength,  
My soul shall sing.

We should concentrate on bringing the love of Christ to people with gentleness and kindness.

After all that is said and done, that is what really matters and it matters more than anything!

We could dwell on the forgiveness of God but, for now, let us suffice by quoting 1 John 1. 9 If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Acts 13.38 reminds us the through preaching, repentance, there is forgiveness of sins.

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