

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS
OCTOBER 20, 2011 | DANA DILL

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. REVIEW OF OUR SERIES – *thoughts about God, Sovereignty*
- b. LOVE IS SOMETHING WE VALUE, YET CAN'T DEFINE
- c. WHEN WE DO DEFINE IT; WE FAIL MISERABLY
 - i. **Love is Good Feelings**- it's how you make me feel
 - ii. **Love is Attraction** – it's how I think you look
 - iii. **Love is About Me and Mine** – it's about what I get out of it.
 - iv. **Love is Nice Thoughts** – Alex's comment about crossing the ocean to get an Ice Tea for Nicci
 - v. **Love Requires Minimal Effort** – I fell out of love.

II. BODY

a. BACKGROUND 1 JOHN

- i. John, *true doctrine, obedient living and fervent devotion*

b. (7-8) LOVE STARTS WITH...

- i. The Evidence of Love
 - 1. Our love for our brothers and sister is evidence of being a Christian
 - 2. Those who meet Jesus in a saving way are “born of God.” This means that true Christians have been transformed into something different than they used to be.
 - 3. It is impossible to *know God* and be *born of Him* and not love.
 - a. If you have met Christians that weren't loving, then John calls them a liar. They weren't Christians because they didn't love.
 - b. If you say you're a Christian, but you don't love other Christians then you're a liar. **HOW IS THAT SO?**

ii. The Reason for Christian/Non-Christian Love

1. **Love comes from God** – Anytime you have experienced love in any capacity, you can thank God. You're welcome. Thus says the Lord.

2. **God is Love**

a. His nature is love

b. This is unique to Christianity

c. **Love and Wrath:** God cannot be loving without getting angry

i. How can a loving God send people to hell? How can He not?

ii. Rob Bell put out a book called love sins and in it posed that a God who sends people to an eternal Hell is not loving. If this true?

iii. **Illustration:** I love kids...I love all kids.

1. If I came home and neighborhood kids were having a full blown cage match in my living room and had my kids up against the wall as they them some vicious ground and pound, I would be angry. I come home ready to treat those kids like they were grown men.

2. Instead, I tell them, "Don't hurt my kids. You can come to my home, but be good to my wife, abide by my rules. If not, you're not welcome in my house. Can you do that?"

3. They say no, give me the finger and make a dash to finish off one my kids. I kick them out and tell them they can't come back until they obey my rules." IS THAT UNLOVING? THAT'S HELL.

4. Hell is all the people who don't want to obey the Father's rules and hang out with His kids.

5. How can God send people to Hell? How can He not do that and still be loving?

iii. *Who God is and what God has done must define what we think love is...*

c. (9-10) LOVE IS...

i. **God's Love Demonstrated in the Bible** – Creation, grace after sin, provision, sustaining power, patience.

ii. **God's Love Supremely Demonstrated in the Cross**

1. The cross that God the Father sent His willing Son Jesus Christ to be tortured upon in the place of hateful sinners; the cross the Holy Spirit points guilt ridden men and women to; the wondrous cross supremely and perfectly reveals to us the breathtaking love of God.

a. The love of God cannot be spoken of adequately without speaking of the cross

b. When we use anything else to speak of God's love, we are speaking baby talk; the cross is God's matured disclosure. All other acts of His love are sketches, the cross is a full colored portrait painted by God's hand Himself..

2. Knowing that the Cross Perfectly Puts God's Love on Display, We Now Ask Pastor John, "**What Does the Cross Say of God's Love?**"

a. *He sent His One and Only Son* – **Sacrificial**

b. *So we may live through Him* – **Benevolent**

c. *Not that we loved God* – **Undeserved**

d. *But that He loved us* – **Free**

e. *And sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins* – **Practical**

f. *Propitiation for our sins* - **Just**

g. *"What wondrous love is this?"*

3. **(10) This is love...New Definition of Love:** the commitment to sacrifice one's most beloved possession for another's gain.

a. Love does something. Do you see? God's love did something for us. His love is not abstract notion or a philosophical idea.

- i. His love entered this fallen world, His love suffered the sinfulness of humanity in life and His love bore the curse of our sin in death. The love of God is sending His one and only Son on a mission marked for death. The love of God has willingly come to take a crown of thorns upon His head and a cross upon His back. His love has done something!
 - ii. How marvelous is that something His love has done! Do you see it? Can you hear it? The love of God screams from the cross, “my God, my God why have you forsaken me?”
 - iii. The Love of God screams through lips dripping with blood, “It is finished.”
 - b. **MY QUESTION:** How does this love take the back seat to your boyfriend? Your girlfriend? How can it be that when they say, “I love you” your heart flutters with ecstatic joy, but when God proves His love on the cross your eyes glaze over and you look to the clock to see when this sermon will be over?
- 4. The cross takes our pathetic views of love and smashes with violent truth of true love
 - a. **Good Feelings?!** – you were by nature an object of my anger; your sins made me sick.
 - b. **Attraction?!** – You were violently hateful sinners who wanted everything but me.
 - c. **About Me and Mine?!** – I have put aside all that was about m and mine so you could have abundant life.
 - d. **Love is Nice Thoughts?!** – I came, I bled, I rose. I reign.
 - e. **Love Requires Minimal Effort!?** – I went to hell for sinners.

d. (11-12) THE IMPLICATION OF HIS LOVE

i. Our call to love (11)

1. *Dear friends, since God so loved us...* (since He loved like this)
2. *We also ought to love one another* (our standard of love has been given to us by the cross of Jesus Christ)

3. We are called to have *gospel love* for one another.

ii. The significance of our gospel love (12)

1. *No one has ever seen God...*

a. **John 1:18**: No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

i. God reveals Himself through creation

ii. God revealed Himself supremely through Jesus Christ

b. What about now? When we expect John to say what He said again in John 1:18, He throws a curve ball and lets us understand something earth shatteringly profound...

2. If we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

a. *Our love for one another is evidence of His presence in us and is His Word to the world*

b. **Made Complete?** What will heaven be? Heaven will be the perfect fulfillment of the first and second greatest commandment. Heaven will be **Matthew 22:37-40** unbroken, obeyed and held high.

c. When we love God and others, we are having his love perfected in us and He is revealing His work through our love

III. CONCLUSION

a. **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN; RECEIVE HIS LOVE**

b. **BE LED BY AND LEAN ON THE LOVE OF GOD**

i. **Trusting in this?** When you sin, don't hide, bring it to Dad to be healed

ii. **Obeying because of this?**

c. **LOVE OTHERS WITH GOSPEL LOVE**

i. Be a missionary lover of Jesus for the good of others.