

# ***"TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM"***

## **11. Attributes of God: His Love**

The last of God's attributes that we will be studying is one that should make us excited and joyful and hopeful.

**"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."**

**(NKJV, 1 John 4:8)**

Love is such a foundational attribute of God that without love it is impossible to know Him. And by extension, because we are made in His image, love must be OUR foundational attribute.

*(NKJV, 1Co 13:2), "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*

It doesn't matter how much book knowledge we have, how much faith we have, how much we pray, or what we do... if we don't have love and do those things in love then all of those things are meaningless. There is a song that we used to sing where the chorus ended in "and they'll know we are Christians by our love".

### **God's Love for us is independent of what we do.**

In a sense, God's Love binds all of His other attributes together. His mercy, grace, sovereignty, omnipotence, etc. all work in harmony with His love.

*(NKJV, 1John 4:19), "We love Him because He first loved us."*

*(NKJV, Eph 2:4), "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,"*

*(NKJV, 2Th 2:16), "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,"*

God's love for mankind originates solely within the "heart" of God. He already loved us before we were even born. His love is infinite and eternal and unchanging. There was never a time when God had more love than any other time. There was never a time when God was NOT love. There is no limit to God's love.

*(NKJV, Rom 8:38-39) "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, [39] nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Once we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, nothing can come between us and God's love for us...nothing. We can't do anything to affect God's love for us. Nor can anyone else. The enemy will try to use fear to make us believe that God doesn't love us... or love us as much as He once did.

**The revelation of God's Love is completed in Jesus Christ.**

*(NKJV, John 3:16), "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

*(NKJV, 1John 4:10), "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

Throughout this Bible study series, we have always gone to the Psalms to find a key theme verse related to the attribute of God that was the topic of the study. However, for Love, we had to look in the New Testament. Our key theme verse is taken from literally the end of the New Testament. An overwhelming majority of the verses related to God's love of mankind are located in the New Testament.

I believe that this is significant. The revelation, or "revealing" of the depth and scope of God's love is made complete in Jesus... who He is... and what He has done. Before Jesus, we did not truly know just how much God loves us. But even after the cross, after accepting Christ, we won't truly know the scope of God's love until we are with Him and see Him as He truly is. At that time, we will be humbled beyond description... to realize exactly who it was who died for our sins.

What a wonderful day that will be when we are standing in the presence of the glory of God the Son... Jesus.

**Group Discussion**

- Are there times when you think that God could love you more if only you did something more (or did something differently)?
- How is God's love demonstrated in His allowing an unbeliever to choose Hell?