

THE LOVE OF GOD

OUT OF THE WORD

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I would recall our attention to the three things that we are told in Holy Scripture concerning the nature of who God is: God is spirit (John 4:24), God is light (1 John 1:5), and finally God is love (1 John 1:5). I would inform us as an equippier to the body of Christ, that it is not simply that God loves, but that He is love itself. Love is not merely one of His attributes, but His very nature. It is quite common for many to talk about the love of God, who are total strangers to the God of love. I would encourage those who pervert the love of God to look to a much higher authority than themselves, that namely being the objective word of God, A.K.A. the Holy Bible. In so doing one will find out rather quickly that they can become acquainted with His love and their hearts would therefore be drawn out in love for Him. I want to point out some truths pointing to the love of God: First, God's love is infinite. God fills heaven and earth. The wisdom of God is unlimited. God knows everything in the past, present, and future. So, His love is without limit (Eph. 2:4). Second, God's love is immutable. As with God Himself there is "no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). I have always loved the book of the Song of Solomon which makes this case well, "The divine love is subject to no vicissitudes. Divine love is "strong as death...many waters cannot quench it" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7). Third, God's love is holy. Understand this in our liberal secular progressive society, God will not wink at sin. No matter what the cool grace youth pastor says, God must punish sin. God is light (1 John 1:5), and also God is love (1 John 4:8). God's love is not soft or fluffy. Scripture declares, "Whom the Lord loves He chastises, and scourges every son whom He receives" (Hebrews 12:6). God will discipline even His own people (remember the church went into captivity in 722 & 586 B.C.). Always remember friend, God's love is pure. Fourth, The love of God is gracious. Just consider Christ's incarnation (John 3:16). Contrary to what the liberals' say-please dear reader understand, that Christ died not in order to make God love us, but because He did love His people. If you want to see love then stop looking on your iPhone and look to Calvary. Whenever you are tempted to doubt the love of Yahweh – then turn your gaze to Calvary (Col. 1:19-20). I haft to say it is quite encouraging to ponder and relish in the fact that when the world hates us, God loves us! Fifth, God's love is patient. It is here that the sinner is brought face to face with the holy tension between God's love and His divine wrath. One must recognize that God's patience is manifested between *delay* and *restraint* in His execution of wrath. God restrains Himself and waits (Isaiah 48:9). If God determined to give me and you right here in Pinckneyville to give me and you what we deserve as soon as we deserve it, we would all have perished long ago. It is His loving patience that puts the punishment "on hold" until it is either set aside (with regard to the one who deserves it) or ultimately applied. The beauty of the Old Testament and New Testament is that Jesus would suffer this wrath in our place. This is the basis of the patience of God, whether it be patience with Old Testament sinners or New Testament sinners. Yahweh can delay the execution of His wrath because the wrath has been poured out of Christ on the cross. It is love that has sent the Son to be the propitiation (wrath averted sacrifice) (1 John. 4:10). Have you realized that? God is saying, "I will not execute my anger on you, because I will execute it on myself when I, the eternal Logos become Jesus (Yeshua) of Nazareth and be murdered on Calvary." That is the meat and potatoes of God's patience. So repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the *ruach ha-kodesh* (Holy Spirit, in Hebrew, Acts 2:38). You say, "Yea, I've already done that." Good for you. The evidence that you have done that is not in the fact that

you said you did that- but that you will be walking in personal holiness (Hebrews 12:14). Do you love Him? (John 21:15-17).