

How does God teach us about love?

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Introduction: We need to be taught about the love of God.

- A. In our age words have been changed to mean almost anything! This is true when we speak of “love.”
 - 1. Rather than letting men define love, let us look to God whose very nature defines love! God, truth and love go hand in hand. **(1 Jn 4:6-8)**
 - 2. Love is the greatest thing we can possibly possess. **(1 Cor 13:13; Mt 22:37-38)**
 - 3. We must not accept a counterfeit. We also must know that we possess love!
- B. How does God teach us about love?
 - 1. He tells us He loves us. **(Ex 34:6)**
 - 2. He shows us He love us. **(Jn 3:16)**
 - 3. We can conclude that He loves us. **(Neh 9:30-31)**
 - 4. All teaching is found in these forms (CENI).

I. God shows us the sacrificial nature of His love

- A. God became Man in the birth of Jesus. **(Jn 1:1-2, 14)**
 - 1. This loss and exposure on the part of God becoming man cannot be overstated. **(Phil 2:5-8; Jn 17:5)**
 - 2. Jesus for the first time in eternity could now be hungry, tired, thirsty, and even suffer physical death. He is exposed to the great adversary Satan!
- B. Jesus willingly endured death by crucifixion because of His love.
 - 1. He was tempted to come down from the cross. **(Mt 26:53)**
 - 2. He experienced pain, thirst and weariness.
 - 3. He suffered the disappointment of betrayal and desertion.
 - 4. He witnessed His enemies mocking Him at His death.
- C. What did Jesus do? He showed love to His enemies! **(Lk 23:34)**
 - 1. Remember the Lord in your trials. He cares. **(Heb 12:2-4)**
 - 2. We have a faith in a Savior who understands and cares. **(Heb 4:14-16; 1 Pt 5:7)**

II. God shows us the unconditional nature of His love

- A. How can a man die for his enemies? **(Rom 5:6-8)**
 - 1. This teaches me that the love of God is not dependent upon what I have done!
 - 2. Why would the creator of the universe make me the center of His love?
 - 3. I know because He demonstrated it. Why did Jesus not just die a quick death?
- B. Our redemption is foreshadowed in the book of Hosea.
 - 1. God has Hosea to take a wife who would become a harlot. **(Hosea 1:2)**
 - 2. What would be the attributes of a woman who chose to be a harlot? What kind of pain would this cause her husband?
 - 3. Her unfaithfulness is shown in the naming of the children. The first child was named Jezreel (whose name means "God sows; God scatters"). The second child was named Lo-Ruhamah (whose name means "unpitied"). The third child was named Lo-Ammi (whose name means "not my people").

4. What kind of pain did Hosea experience in knowing that some, it not all of his children born by his wife were not his? (**Hosea 9:1; 2:2**)
5. Our God hurts when we forsake Him! (**Eph 4:30; 2 Cor 11:2-4**)
6. God does not give up on anyone! God has Hosea buy back his wife who was sold as a worthless slave. Imagine the scene! (**Hosea 3:2-3**)

III. The mighty demands of the love of God

- A. The love of God is exactly like the Son of God in His ministry. Wherever He went He disturbed, revealed and changed men who spent time with Him.
 1. What did He do when He went into the temple? (**Jn 2:13-17**)
 2. What did Jesus do when He spoke to the rich, young ruler? (**Mk 10:17-22**)
 3. In both cases the love moved Jesus to expose the heart.
- B. A failure to know God will make us unstable and undependable. (**Hos 6:4-6**)
 1. Have you been a “yo-yo” Christian? (**2 Cor 4:1; Eph 3:17**)
 2. When we understand God’s love we will no longer be the center of our universe. It will not all be about me!
 3. Because God loves me, I love His word and I am serious about putting away sin in my life. (**1 Pt 2:1-3**)
 4. Are you indifferent, bored or living among the “fellowship of the miserable?” Come to let God’s love melt your heart and change your life! Learn!

IV. Satan also speaks about God’s love

- A. Satan will picture his ways as being found in the love of God! (**1 Pt 2:16; 2 Pt 2:19**)
 1. Satan will attack and accuse men who actually know and live the love of God as being unloving!
 2. Satan’s view of “love” exalts disobedience as being enlightened. I have seen those leave what they call “unloving brethren” to participate openly in social drinking.
- B. When men fail to have the love of God in their lives they can develop a religion like the Pharisees. (**Lk 11:42; Jn 5:42**)
 1. We can be tempted in pride to forsake patient and mercy.
 2. We must never forget to teach ourselves these truths. (**Mt 9:13; James 2:13**)
 3. When we learn more we are tempted to be proud. We must keep God in sight. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
 4. We can be proud and unmerciful and water down God’s standard and fail to rebuke those who are astray!
- C. Satan teaches that sacrifices can replace a merciful heart. (**Micah 6:6-8**)
 1. Some of the most knowledgeable men in God’s law can be the harshest.
 2. What does God really want? What God wants is not easy! Our worship can be for us and not for God.

Conclusion: Will you let the love of God be your foundation?