

THE LOVE OF GOD

Help us to believe the intensity and the eternity of the love that has found us. Then love will cast out fear, and our troubled hearts will be at peace, trusting not in what we are, but in what You have declared Yourself to be.

God's love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea before which we kneel in joyful silence. The heart is wiser than the apostles of tranquility. While we are in the hands of chance, while we look for hope to the law of averages, as long as we must trust for survival, to our ability to outthink or outmaneuver the enemy, we have every good reason to be afraid. And fear torments us.

God is love, and God is sovereign. His love disposes Him to desire our everlasting welfare and His sovereignty enables Him to secure it. Nothing can hurt a good man. God's love tells us that He is friendly, and His Word assures us that He is our friend and wants us to be His friends. No man with a trace of humility would first think that He is a friend of God. The idea did not originate with men. Abraham would never have said "I am God's friend". But God Himself said that Abraham was His friend.

God wants our love and will not be satisfied until He gets it. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the Propitiation for our sins". There is no creature that is made that may know how much and how sweetly and how tenderly our Maker loves us. God enjoys His creation. The apostle John says frankly that God's purpose in creation was His own pleasure.

The Lord takes peculiar pleasure in His saints. God hates sin and can never look with pleasure upon iniquity, but where men seek to do God's will He responds in genuine affection. Christ and his atonement has removed the bar to the divine fellowship. Now in Christ all believing souls are objects of God's delight.

The love of God is one of the great realities of the universe, a pillar upon which the hope of the world rests. But it is a personal, intimate thing too. God does not love populations. He loves people. He loves not masses, but men. He loves us all with a mighty love that has no beginning and can have no end. In Christian experience there is a highly satisfying love content that distinguishes it from all other religions and elevates it to heights far beyond

even the purest and noblest philosophy. This love content is more than a thing. It is God Himself, in the midst of His church, singing over His people. True Christian joy is the heart's harmonious response to the Lord's song of love.

By faith and obedience, by constant meditation on the holiness of God, by loving righteousness and hating inequity, by a growing acquaintance with the Spirit of Holiness, we can acclimate ourselves to the fellowship of the saints on earth and prepare ourselves for the eternal companionship of God and the saints above. When humble believers meet, we will have a heaven to go to heaven in.