

The Love of God



Elements Class: Sunday, Nov 29th
Choir Room 10:45am

GOOD-WILL

Care

Protection

Giving

Deep-Affection

Sacrificial

Best-Interest

Gracious

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the love of God, we mean:

God is patient, God is kind. God does not envy, He does not boast, He is not proud. He is not rude, **He is not self-seeking**, He is not easily angered, He keeps no record of wrongs. He does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. He never fails. (1Cor 13:4-8)

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the love of God, we mean:

The concern of God for man:

The love of God is what inclines Him to be kind, caring, gracious, benevolent and full of goodwill towards mankind.

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the love of God, we mean:

The compassion of God for man:

The love of God is what inclines Him to be forgiving, merciful, gracious, longsuffering towards mankind.

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the love of God, we mean:

The commitment of God towards man:

The love of God is what inclines Him to be utterly committed to the 'everlasting welfare' or 'ultimate good' of mankind.

Getting to the core of true love:



True love is seeking the
**ultimate good
for another...**
regardless of the cost
to self.

True love aims at satisfying people in the glory of God. Any love that terminates on man is eventually destructive. It does not lead people to the only lasting joy, namely, God. Love must be God-centered, or it is not true love; it leaves people without their final hope of joy.

John Piper

In other words:

God loves **perfectly**.

In other words:

Perfect love
**seeks the absolute best end
for others.**

In other words:

**God is the absolute best end
in all the universe.**

In other words:

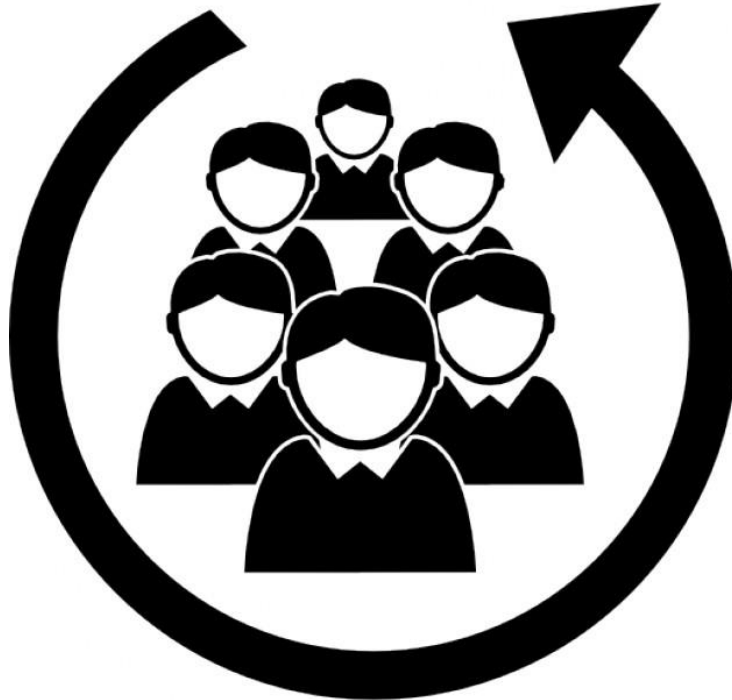
The best end is
for every human to glorify him
through praise & submission to him.

In other words:

This end is what will bring
the most possible joy & satisfaction
to each and every person.

Therefore;

God loves every person to the best possible end, which is that they come into a relationship with him where they can glorify him and experience the deepest level of joy & satisfaction they could ever experience anywhere.



God is the one being in the universe for whom self-exaltation is the most loving act. In pursuing the creation to exalt the creator, he is pursuing us **towards what is the absolute ultimate good and what is ultimately best for us.**



There is nothing better than God.

There is nothing more satisfying than being in a relationship with him and having our lives fulfill the purpose of bringing glory to him. Therefore there is no greater love than to purpose the creature towards that end...regardless of the cost.

The love of God is not God's making much of us, but God's saving us from self-centeredness so that we can enjoy making much of him forever. And our love to others is not our making much of them, but helping them to find satisfaction in making much of God.

John Piper

Our definition;

God loves every person to the best possible end, which is that they come into a growing, God-glorifying relationship with Him...
regardless of the cost to himself
or the creature.

Scripture;

God so loved the world **that he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life...Now this is eternal life: **that they know you, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ...

(John 3:16, 17:3)

Scripture;

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, **Christ died** for us...**Christ also suffered** once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **to bring you to God.**

(Romans 5:3, 1 Peter 3:18)

Scripture;

In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ...In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

(Ephesians 1:4,7,12)

Facets of God's love;

Unconditional & Uninfluenced



Unconditional & Uninfluenced

There was never anything whatsoever in the objects of his love that prompted, warranted or sustains his love. God's love is free, spontaneous and unconditioned.

(The only condition is within himself, his character)



Unconditional & Uninfluenced

*The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you
because you were more in number than any of the
peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.
(Deut 7:7)*



Unconditional & Uninfluenced

...while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son ... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us... (Romans 5:10, 8)



Facets of God's love;
Eternal & Unchanging



Eternal & Unchanging

God is eternal and his love is eternal. His love has no beginning and will have no end. His love is from everlasting to everlasting. Nothing outside of himself began it and nothing will end it. It never rises, falls or alters.



Eternal & Unchanging

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. (Jer 31:3)

*...he chose us in him before the creation of the world to
be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined
us for adoption... (Eph 1:4-5)*



Eternal & Unchanging

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end. (Lam 3:22)*



Facets of God's love;

Infinite



Infinite

Like his wisdom & power, his love is limitless. His love is unbound, without borders. None can measure the length, height, breadth or full extent of his love. No one can reach the end of his love.



Infinite

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



How

Should



AFFECT

me



#1

The love of God *should*
make me incredibly thankful.



PRACTICAL ACTION



The incomprehensible, eternal love of God should lead us to be the most thankful people in all the world.



**Have you ever written God a thank-you note?
Take a second now to say thank-you once again!**

The love of God *should*
give me incredible
confidence.

#2



PRACTICAL ACTION



The love of God should give us the confidence to believe that nothing then, nothing now, nothing ever can or will separate me from the love of God.



The love of God should give us relational confidence, that we are dearly loved children of God, who can go to our loving Father with anything at anytime!

The love of God *should*
enable me to be unconditional
in my love.

#3



David

PRACTICAL ACTION



The love of God should remove all parameters to my loving of others. Income, status, race, culture, comfort, ability, disability should not be prerequisites of my showing love.



We should not condition our love upon anticipated responses, or specific behavior. People will fail us...again and again. Consider how many times you have failed God.

#4

The love of God *should* enable my love
to be endless & unchanging.



#5



The love of God
should
enable my love to
be without limit.

PRACTICAL ACTION



The love of God should enable me to be relentless in my loving of others. Christians should be the most radically loving people in all of the world.



Our love should not be hot or cold, dependent on our moods & attitudes. Our love should reflect God's constant faithful love.

#6



The love of God
should
purpose my love
towards the
best end.

PRACTICAL ACTION



We should not love our children, spouse & fellow believers towards comfort, ease, blessing and shelter. The goal of our love should be that they know God at all costs.



Our love for the lost should not be rooted in the world's ideals of tolerance & total acceptance. It should be rooted in the goal of bringing them to Christ.