

I. Introduction: God's most popular and most misunderstood attribute. I Jo. 4:8

II. Whom does God love?

- A. God loves the evil world in spite of its rebellion against Him.
1. The world hates God. 1:10-11 3:19 7:7 15:18-19 17:16 I Jo. 5:19 2:15f f
 2. God loves His enemies. Rom. 5:6-8,10 Eph. 2:4-5
 3. Have you ever seen yourself as God's enemy?
- B. God loves the needy world which is perishing. Ro. 6:23 Eph. 2:1ff
- C. God loves all people in a certain sense.
1. He gives common grace blessings to all people. Mt. 5:43-48
 2. He offers the gospel to all without distinction. Jo. 3:16c 6:37b Rev. 5:9
- D. God loves His chosen people in a very special way.
1. God does not love everyone equally. Rom. 9:11-13 Am. 3:2 Jer. 1:5 31:3 Ps. 89:1-3 Dt. 4:37 7:7-8 10:15
 2. God's love is particular. He gave certain people to Jesus. John 13:1 6:37,39 17:2,6, 10:11,14-15,26-27
- E. God's saving love is consistent with His other attributes.
1. God's love is sovereign. He does not owe His love to anyone. Rom. 9:15-16
 2. God's love is gracious and undeserved. The basis of God's choice has nothing to do with our worthiness. Dt. 7:7-8 II Tim. 1:9 I Jo. 4:19,10a
 3. God's love is eternal, having loved us from before creation. Eph. 1:3-6 Je. 31:3
 4. God's love for us is immutable and unending. Rom. 8:31-39 John 13:1
 5. God's love is infinite and unmeasurable. Eph. 2:4 3:14-19
 6. God's love for us is holy and just. Ro. 3:21,26
- F. Application.
1. We who have been loved by God must love God. Mt. 22:37-38 I Jo. 2:15 Js. 4:4
 2. Our love for one another, like God's love, is a love of choice and commitment. 13:35 I Jo. 4:7-8 Mt. 22:39 Eph. 5:25 Titus 2:4 John 13:35 Rom. 12:9-10
 3. God calls us to love our enemies. Mt. 5:43ff 10:35-36 Rom. 12:17-21

III. How does God show His love?

- A. God's love is active and giving -- He gave His unique Son. 1:1-2,14 I Jo. 4:9
1. The Son is God. 1:1-4 17:5,24
 2. God the Son willingly became man. 1:14,18 Ro. 8:3 Isa. 7:14
 3. The mystery of the incarnation. Luke 1:26-38 Matt. 1:18-25 Phil. 2:5-8
 4. The necessity of the incarnation. Heb. 2:17
- B. God's love is costly -- He gave His unique Son to die for sinners. I Jo. 4:10
1. God sent His Son to be the Lamb of God who would die for sinners. 1:29 Mt. 1:21
 2. The Father paid a great price to redeem us. Gen. 22:1-18 Ro. 8:32 Heb. 11:17
 3. Jesus willingly died to save us. 4:34 5:30 10:17-18 15:13 Mt. 26:42 Ga. 2:20 II Co. 8:9

- C. God's love is purposeful -- He sent His Son that we would not die, but live.
 - 1. Jesus did not come merely to be a great teacher or example.
 - 2. He came to save us from death. 3:17 Ro. 3:20 6:23 Eph. 2:1-7 Isa. 53:4ff
 - 3. God sent His Son that we might have everlasting life. 1:1:4 3:36a 14:6 Eph. 2:4-5
 - 4. We are saved exclusively by God's love. Phil. 3:8-9 I Jo. 4:9

- D. We should love as God loves -- actively, sacrificially and purposefully. John 14:15
Eph. 5:25ff I Jo. 4:19,11-12 I Cor. 13:4 Phil. 2:3ff

IV. How can you gain the benefits of God's love?

- A. Faith is the condition of receiving the life God offers us in Christ.
 - 1. From the human side -- Those who would believe. 6:37b
 - 2. From divine side -- All those the Father gave Him will come. 6:37a 10:27
 - 3. Jesus laid down His life for His beloved sheep. 10:11,14-15,26-27 Eph. 5:25
Rev. 5:9 Mark 10:45

- B. Those who believe can never be separated from His love. Ro. 8:31-39 Ps. 100:5

- C. Those who have experienced such love are able to truly love. 13:35 I Jo. 4:19,7-8,12
Eph. 3:14-19 Ro. 5:5 Gal. 2:20

- D. Those who reject God's love in Christ will perish in their sin. v. 16,18-20

V. Concluding application.

Attributes of God: God is love - Quiz (T/F with explanations)

1. Love is God.
2. Love is undoubtably the most important and defining of God's attributes.
3. The first expression of God's love is His love for us.
4. God loves everyone.
5. God loves everyone equally.
6. God loves us because we first loved Him.
7. God's love for His people is eternal and unbreakable.
8. Love is primarily a feeling.
9. The most important expression of love is words.
10. The most important application of God's love is that we love one another.
11. It is impossible to truly love others if you have never experienced God's love in Christ.
12. The degree of God's love shows how valuable and worthy is the object of His love.