



The God I Wish You Knew - October 4, 2015 - The God that is Love

Introduction

The God that is love seems like an easy concept to understand. But love has taken on so many myths, ideas, and definitions that grasping the concept of what it truly means may be more difficult than we think.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of the word love, what are some things that come to your mind? When you think about love, do you have any unpleasant thoughts or past hurts that come to mind? If so, please explain.
2. Read [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#). How does God's definition of the word love differ from what you have experienced from others who have told you that they love you?
3. When you hear someone say that God is love, what are the first things that come to your mind? Do you see any correlation to your answers to question 1 and your answer this question? If so, please explain.
4. In the message Jon said; "Getting to know the God that is love requires us getting to know what God says love actually is." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
5. Read [1 John 4:7-10](#). What does John say in verse 9 that God's love did? What does John say in verse 10 God's love is? Based on what John said God's love is and what God's love did, what is required of you for God to love you?

Moving Forward

When we say God is love, we are not saying *everything* about God. Love is an essential aspect of His character, and colors every aspect of His nature. But it does not eliminate His holiness, His righteousness, or His perfect justice. Instead, we know the holiness of God is loving, and the righteousness of God is loving, and the justice of God is loving. Everything God does, in one way or another, expresses His love. Great problems come when we try to say **love is God**. This is because love does not define *everything* in the character of God, and because when most people use the term *love*, they are not thinking of true (agape: spiritual) love, the God-kind of love. Instead, they are thinking of a sensual (eros) or sincere (phileo) kind of love that values being "nice" more than wanting and working towards what is really best for the other person. God is holy, righteous, and just. Because He loves us so much, the way He decided to continue in His Godship of holiness, righteousness, and justice was to humble Himself and take on the form of humanity, do for us what we could never do for ourselves; live a perfect life, suffer a sacrificial death on a cross, and conquer death by rising from the dead, so that we might live! He made Himself a propitiation (became a replacement sacrifice) to satisfy His own righteousness, holiness, and justice... that is what love does because He is love! When we get to know this God, we come to know the God who loves us solely on the basis that He is love. Can you imagine what it would look like if you believed this truth? If you truly knew this God? The God of the bible. What would happen to your home, your workplace, our city if you decided to stop approaching or attempting to approach God on what you did or didn't do yesterday and decided to come to Him just as you are? Will you decided today to believe that God loves you, not because of what you did, didn't do, or will do but solely because of who He is... He is love!

Changing Your Mind - Commit this to memory

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. - [1 John 4:8](#) (ESV)

