

Advent 2019- Jesus is the Love of God

The world would be a very dark place if the Love of God were not revealed and expressed through His church.

God's love motivates all Christian love, for brothers and sisters in Christ, and for lost nations, neighbors, and friends. Hospitals, medical centers, churches, missions orgs, recovery centers, orphanages, food services, pregnancy centers, etc. Mom's meet-up groups, in-home Bible studies, blogs, neighborhood fellowship events, adoptions, difficult friendships, uncomfortable gospel presentations, redemptive parenting, and random acts of kindness.

1 John 3:1-2

³ See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

God's love for us has made us His children! For this reason, we joyfully await a beautiful transformation and a glorious home-going.

Receiving His love leads us to worship, to live sacrificially, to be merciful to sinners, and to show grace to one another.

1 John 4:19

¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us.

The love of God always begins with God!

How do we know that? Because of the condition we were in when he found us.

Ephesians 2:1-7

² And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

The entire gospel is predicated on an incomprehensible and unjustifiable love!

We were unlovely, unlovable, and unloving by nature, but that God sought us, bought us and will never forsake us because of virtues He alone possessed!

What motivates God to love us?

1 John 4:16

¹⁶ We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

God's love is motivated by His own nature- He is naturally generous, loving, gracious, humble, and kind!

The love of God for mankind and His church culminated in the outpouring of His love in the earth in the gift of His Son.

1 John 4:9-10

⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

John 1:18

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

If God is love, and Jesus is God, then Jesus is the love of God!

He came from the bosom of the Father, and having returned, from there He extends His love to us even now.

John 21:20

²⁰ Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

How happens in us when we come to know the love of God?

We love Jesus, and after that, we love others as God loved us!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

What a redemption He brings!

"Just as Our Lord came into human history from outside, so He must come into me from outside. Have I allowed my personal human life to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God? Immediately Christ is formed in me, His nature begins to work through me. God manifest in the flesh — that is what is made profoundly possible for you and me by the Redemption."
— Oswald Chambers