

# GOD: A Short Autobiography

## "GOD is Perfect Love! Mark 10:17-21

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

**NKJV** - "Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him.."

In a survey, children were asked to answer the question: "What is Love?"

- "Love is when a girl puts on perfume, and a boy puts on shaving cologne, and they go out and smell each other."
- "Love is when you kiss all the time. And when you get done kissing, you still want to be together, so you talk more."
- "I know my older sister loves me, because she give me her old clothes, then she has to go out and buy new ones."
- "I let my big sister pick on me, because my mom says she does it because she loves me. So I pick on my baby sister, because I love her."
- "Love is when you tell a guy that you like his shirt...and he wears it every day!"
- "Love is when mommy sees daddy all sweaty and dirty...and says he's still more handsome than Denzel Washington."
- "When you love someone, little stars come out of your head and float up into the sky. You really shouldn't say you love someone unless you mean it...but if you mean it, you should say it a lot!"
- "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather now does it for her, even though he's got arthritis too....that is love."

**LOVE** - There is no other subject that has been **written** upon, **sung** about, **dramatized**, or **acted out** by the human race. **WHY??** Because we have **a built in need** for real, genuine, authentic **LOVE**.

- **Dr. Carl Menninger, was an accomplished American psychiatrist, who founded the Menninger School of Psychiatry and Menninger Clinic in Kansas. He was also awarded the Presidential Freedom Medal by Jimmy Carter for his accomplishments. Dr. Menninger was determined to measure the impact of LOVE upon his medical patients and choose to create what he called "an atmosphere of creative love" in his clinic. Patients were given "large doses of LOVE" and no unloving or negative attitudes were allowed from his medical staff. THE RESULT: His patients began to heal, and heal twice as fast as before the "LOVE treatment". Within 6 months, the average stay of all patients was reduced by 50%. After his research, Dr. Menninger concluded: "LOVE cures people. Both the ones who give it, and the ones who receive it."**

There seems to be an **unconscious awareness** within the human race, that **we were made** for **LOVE**. In our **heart** of hearts, in the bottom of our **souls**, in the depths of our **being**, we crave **LOVE** more than anything else. We also desire to be able to GIVE **LOVE** to those around us...

**I. GOD loves you PERFECTLY.**

**II. GOD loves you PERSONALLY.**

### III. GOD loves you **PROPERLY**.

#### I. **GOD loves you PERFECTLY**.

- What does the word "**Love**" really mean?!? Most people misuse this word, and many people over use this word, and so it is commonly misunderstood.
  - **The longest "love letter" ever written** was the work of a French painter named Marcel de Leclure in 1875. The recipient was Magdalene de Villalore. The letter contained the phrase "I love you," 1,875,000 times -- a thousand times the calendar year. However, Marcel did not pen the letter with his own hand...he simply hired a scribe!
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  - **The longest kiss on record??** - 105 minutes 48 seconds by a young couple from Hannover, Germany. They had to stop kissing, because they almost passed out from a lack of oxygen!
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  - The **English language** has only 1 word for "love"...
  - The **Spanish language** has 2 words for "love"...
  - The **Ancient Koine Greek** language, being very precise, has no less than 4 words for "love"
    - **"φιλέω" or "phileō"** - This is the warm **love of friendship**. This word is used in words like "Philadelphia" or "philharmonic" or "philosophy". It is a bond formed between friends through trials and experiences of life.
    - **"ἔρως" or "érōs"** - This is the physical **love of sensuality**. This was the name of one of the Greek gods - Eros. Today, we derive the word "erotic" from it. This is a very selfish form of love based on one's sexual and physical appetite. This word is never used in Scripture.
    - **"στοργος" or "storgos"** - This is the kind affection of **family love**. This is the kind of love that parents and children have for one another. To Greeks it was illustrated by 2 sons who saved their parents from an attacking army, by carrying them to safety.
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    - **"ἀγάπη" or "agapē"** - This is the strongest word for love in the Greek language. Agape love was not prized by the Greeks, and was actually despised by them. Only one ancient Greek writer, Xenophon, used it in his writings. Agape love is stronger and more powerful than any other form of love, for multiple reasons:
      - **Agape** is a **sacrificial love**, **WILLING** to surrender and give up it's rights.
      - **Agape** is a **self-denying love** that **CHOOSES** to put itself last.
      - **Agape** is an **unconditional love**, that is **GIVEN** regardless of emotions or feelings.
      - **Agape** is an **unchanging love**, a **DECISION** to be kind, without changing.
      - **Agape** is a **Love of the WILL**, and is a **CHOICE** to give, and a **DECISION** to sacrifice.
- This is the love that **GOD possesses**, gives, and actually **IS** in His essence. Agape love is not something that God has, but rather something that **He IS**. Agape love is essential to the **character and nature of God**:
  - **1John 4:8** - "He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**." (Greek: "..theos esti agape.")

- **1John 4:16** - "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."
- **Frederick Lehman**, in 1917, wrote the hymn "**The Love of GOD**":
  - *The love of God is greater far, Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.  
Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—The saints' and angels' song.  
Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky.*

- **The magnificent display of AGAPE LOVE was at the Cross of Christ.** As a matter of fact, in the New Testament, the love of God towards mankind is never mentioned apart from the Cross of Jesus:
  - **John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world that He **gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
  - **Gal 2:20** - "...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who **loved me and gave Himself for me.**"

## II. **GOD loves you PERSONALLY.**

- **Ps 147:4** - "He counts the number of **the stars**; He calls them all by name."
- **Lk 12:6** - "...**sparrows**..not one of them is forgotten before God."
- **Matt 10:30** - "But the very **hairs of your head** are all numbered."
  
- **Ps.139:1-6 NLT** - "O Lord, you have examined my heart and **know everything about me**. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. **You know everything I do**. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord...Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

## III. **GOD loves you PROPERLY.**

- **Every Parent knows that though we love our children**, it needs to be displayed properly. We cannot be reckless or careless with our love, giving everything to our children that they say they want. This would hurt them, and would not truly be LOVE! We must love them properly...which is sometimes different that what our children want...but it's what they NEED!
  
- **GOD Loves us like this - properly.** His perfect love is manifested according to what is True and Right in God's eyes. He loves us too much to leave us the same, and so like a parent, He gives us what we truly genuinely need, not always what we want. He loves us enough to correct us, discipline us, and challenge us to change. He loves us up **PERFECTLY**; He loves us **PERSONALLY**; and He also loves us **PROPERLY!**