

WHAT MANNER OF LOVE

1 Jn 3.1-3

We are now moving into the second section of this book. The first section dealt with God as light and now it is God as love.

We discovered that if we are in the light then we:

Keep his commandments, but more important, we keep the commandment of Love

We love one another, Walk in righteousness Live a life of confession We turn from the lust of the flesh, eye, pride...

Now we are going to see that the outworking of light is love and of course, that is agape love.

Not friendship love, not family love, not brotherly love, camaraderie..but God's love.

Some Christians make the mistake of thinking that when they become part of a fellowship they can have a bunch of pals!

Everyone will like them & they can like everyone!

That's not the case! The root of any church is agape love, not fun, fellowship, friendship or good times.

I must and do love all of you, but I do not have to like all of you.

Because we have differing tastes, ideas, views on life, backgrounds, etc., it's not possible for all of us to "like" each other!

Light and love is *righteousness and love acting in harmony.*

LOVE without righteousness is gooey, loose sentimentalism and mush.

RIGHTEOUSNESS without love is rigid, cold and unforgiving.

So if you put the two parts of this epistle together, you see light and love. We see a church walking in harmony with one another;

Living in God's love Helping one another Blessing one another Spreading the light and salt of the gospel into the world.

And at some point, you will find some friends here!

...some people you have something in common with, and you will enjoy being together.

But never forget WHO your FIRST friend is! Jesus! Hold tight to HIM, HE will never let you down!

So let's delve into this concept of God's Love (hilariously inexhaustible):

Origin, Object, Achievement, Freeness and Final Intention of love.

THE ORIGIN OF LOVE What manner of love the FATHER...

The genesis, the starting point, the source of this love is the Father!

He is love's fountain He is love's Central fire A self-kindled, self-containing love

Eternal and everlasting Unbending Unyielding

It never stops seeking; Never stops calling; never stops wooing...

You cannot plead for this love...it gushes forth spontaneously from His heart.

So John in futile exasperation asks, "What kind of love is this?"

First of all it is amazing.

That's why the Old testament prophet called Jesus wonderful.

LOOK at this God that emptied himself, took upon himself the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

HOW amazing is that?.

Second, a surpassing excellence.

There is no greater love than the love that Jesus has shown us. Exceptional, extraordinary, miraculous, outlandish ALIEN!

The word for MANNER here actually means "of what country."

Consider the author of this love the son of love Jesus.

He was falsely accused, unjustly condemned by a panel of liars,

His closest friends abandoned him one of them sold him out for a pittance of coins.

After his accusation and mock trial, he was sentenced to death.

He was NOT hung by the neck ; not shot by a firing squad, not humanely dispatched with a drug cocktail that would put into sleep first

But He brutally tortured for nearly a day until he died.

He was stripped naked, mocked, beaten till the flesh of his back fell off,

- A crown of thorns shredded his forehead
- Paraded through the streets until he collapsed.
- His ripped and torn body was dragged and nailed to a wooden cross
- Hoisted in the air and a mocking sign put over his head
- His accusers wagged their tongues at him, spit on and ridiculed.
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And just before his death he uttered three of the most incredible words any human could say: FATHER, FORGIVE THEM.

What MANNER of love is this? Of what country is this love? Where does this love come from?

Here's the good news...

THE OBJECT OF LOVE

Love must have an object: *love by itself, standing alone is useless.* It's like an engine with no gas, or a light with no electricity.

For Love to be Love, *it must be a verb not a noun.*

If I say to you, "I love." Well that's great, so what?

If I say to you, "I love you." Then I understand that I am the *object* of your love, and my world changes!

You are the object of love from that other country!

The noun has become a verb of action and John 13.1 says it so beautifully:

Jesus knew his hour had come, having loved his own who were in the world, and he loved them to the end

You, being the apple of his eye are the object of his love

Rom 5.5 the love of God has been poured out into our hearts

5.8 while we were yet sinners Christ died for us

Gal 2.20 I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless it's not either lives but Christ that lives in me
who loved me and gave himself for me

Eph 2.4 but God who is rich in mercy for his great love with which he loved us,
even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in XJ
that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Romans the 8th chapter.

How central and essential is God's love to this entire thing?

John says that we are now children of God because of his love. and because of his love, it does not yet appear ***what we shall be***, but because of his love we shall be like him. Glorified!

And we know from scripture that since love never ends, His love will be our source and fulfillment for all of eternity.

The apostle Paul puts it this way in Romans 8, (the same pattern of thought). He says...

These present sufferings are worth nothing to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed IN US.

THEN...8.19:

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

THEN...22:

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs **together until now**.

When is that? That's now! We know it is "now" because John clearly says beloved, *now are we the sons of God...!!*

So all of the expectation and groaning and waiting of all of the OT prophets, all of the waiting of the OT Fathers

They all looked to the future... to one event:

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the creation of a new breed of human beings!

New creations called the sons and daughters of God! New hybrids BORN of the Spirit, yet walking in the flesh

New BEINGS, their spirits in heaven, but their bodies in Babylon

That's why...

The groaning and expectation does not stop here! Just as John said, Paul reiterates: vs 23

That we groan within ourselves eagerly awaiting for *the adoption the redemption of our body.*

I am a child of God now,	Fulfillment of all prophecy now;
The pinnacle of his creation now	Have been raised into glorious life now

But there is a day coming when he will take this vile body and fashion it after HIS glorious body according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

But here's key to Romans 8, and it's the same key as in 1 John. LOVE! As we press toward eternity, here's the main point..

It was His Love that saved us;	...sent Him to the CROSS	...that keeps us	...makes me holy
...purifies me daily	...heals me	...provides for me	...gives JOY
...gives PEACE	...gives me GIFTS to live		
...THAT WILL carry me across the portal of death			

It is love that's going to glorify my body. AND it is His love that will hide me in Him forever and ever!

Behold, what manner of love!

Coming up...

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LOVE

THE FREENESS OF LOVE

THE FINAL INTENTION OF LOVE