

## Foundations I – 10/13/24

### The Attributes of God

#### Character qualities that uniquely define God

- Each of God's attributes represent the entirety of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit).
- The differences lay in their roles, functions, and actions (1 John 5:12; 1 Cor. 12:3; Gen. 1:2).
- What you know and believe about God inevitably becomes the lens through which you see everything else in life.
- If we are to truly serve, worship, and honor God, we must have an accurate understanding of His nature.

### The Love of God

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, no that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

1 John 4:7-10

#### • What it Means

- אהב - 'hb – lover, lovable, gift.
- ἀγαπάω - Agapaō – divine/transcendent affection; divine/transcendent pleasure.
- Different than *Eros* (Not found in the NT)
- Different than *Fileo* (refers to the emotional love of friendship and companionship).

#### • The Character of God's Love

- God's Love is Uninfluenced
  - There was nothing in the objects of His love to call God into exercising it.
  - The love which one creature has for another is contingent upon something in them; but the love of God is free, spontaneous and uncaused (Deut. 7:7-8).
  - God does not love me because I've loved Him first. Therefore, His love is entirely unmoved by anything in me (1 John 4:19).
- God's Love is Eternal
  - God Himself is eternal, therefore, as He has no beginning or end, so does His love (Jer. 31:3; Eph. 1:4-5).

- God loved His people before heaven and earth were called into existence, that He had set His heart upon them from all eternity (John 17:24).
  - God will never love someone to later rescind His love (Romans 8:38-39)
- God's Love is Sovereign
  - Because God is Sovereign, He is under no obligation to loving anyone, but He only acts according to His own pleasure and will.
  - "Because God is God, He does as He pleases; because God is love, He loves as He pleases" – A. W. Pink.
- God's Love Immutable
  - As with God Himself, there is no variables neither shadow of change in the way He loves (James 1:17; John 13:1).
  - God never ceased to love Jacob (Romans 9:13).
- God's Love is Holy
  - God's love is not regulated by feeling or sentiment, but by principle. Just as His grace reigns not at the expense of it but through His righteousness, so His love never conflicts with His holiness (1 John 1:5; 4:8).
  - The love of God has no mixture of selfishness, wickedness or sin.
- God's Love is Sacrificial
  - The love God possesses and offers is directly connected to His sacrificial love toward man (John 3:16; 15:13; Galatians 4:3-7).
  - No greater sacrifice could have been made by God than giving Himself upon the cross (Rom. 5:8).
- **Questions**
  1. How should the love of God and the wrath of God be understood to relate to each other?

### **Recommended Books:**

1. **D. A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2000.**
2. Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1741.
3. J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2008.
4. J. C. Ryle, *Holiness*. Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 1877.
5. R. C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishers, 1985.
6. A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 1975.
7. A. W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*. Blacksburg, VA: Wilder Publications. 2008.
8. A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. New York, NY: Harper One. 1961.