

THE LOVE OF GOD

Finally, Brothers and Sisters... - 3

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Text: 2 Corinthians 13:14

Theme: God invites us to receive and live in his love forever.

Three Truths About the Love of God:

1) From All Eternity, God is a Communion of Love

"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:23–24)

2) God's Dealings With Israel All Expressed His Love

"How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? ... My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath." (Hosea 11:8–9)

"He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him." (Psalms 103:9–13)

3) Jesus is the Highest Expression of God's Love Toward Us

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

"... and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)

When God's Love is With Us We Will...

... Receive and Return that Love

"And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"" (Galatians 4:6)

... Love One Another

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

... Be Dissatisfied as Long as Any Remain Ignorant of God's Love

"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." (2 Corinthians 5:13–15)