



GOD'S LOVE. GOD'S GLORY.

JN 11:1-6 | JN 17:20-26

Man's Love In The World...

- Someone who *really* loves me...
 - Accepts me without asking that I _____.
 - Gives me the things that I _____.
 - Reminds me of how _____ I am.
 - Needs me to be _____.

A Different Kind of Love...

- God's love for us is ultimately seen in His willingness to help us see and savor His _____. (Jn. 11:1-6; 17:20-26)
 - "Father I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory." (Jn. 17:24)

A Differing Kind of Being...

- God is _____ about His glory. (Isa. 48:9-11; Eph. 1:4-6)
- God's glory is the most _____-inspiring soul-satisfying thing in the universe (Ps. 16:11; Ps. 27:4)
- Therefore, God's self-_____ is His highest and most potent expression of love for me. (Phil. 2:9-11)
 - "God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him."
—John Piper

God's Love In The Word...

- Rescues me from my sin *and* _____! (Rom. 7:24-25)
- Helps me want the things I _____. (Phil. 2:13)
- Frees me to make much of _____. (1 Pet 2:9)

GOD'S LOVE. GOD'S GLORY.

JN 11:1-6 | JN 17:20-26

Man's Love In The World...

- Someone who *really* loves me...
 - Accepts me without asking that I _____ **change** _____.
 - Gives me the things that I _____ **want** _____.
 - Reminds me of how _____ **wonderful** _____ I am.
 - Needs me to be _____ **happy** _____.

A Different Kind of Love...

- God's love for us is ultimately seen in His willingness to help us see and savor His _____ **glory** _____. (Jn. 11:1-6; 17:20-26)
 - "Father I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory." (Jn. 17:24)

A Differing Kind of Being...

- God is _____ **passionate** _____ about His glory. (Isa. 48:9-11; Eph. 1:4-6)
- God's glory is the most _____ **awe** _____-inspiring soul-satisfying thing in the universe (Ps. 16:11; Ps. 27:4)
- Therefore, God's self-_____ **exaltation** _____ is His highest and most potent expression of love for me. (Phil. 2:9-11)
 - "God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him."
—John Piper

God's Love In The Word...

- Rescues me from my sin *and* _____ **myself** _____! (Rom. 7:24-25)
- Helps me want the things I _____ **should** _____. (Phil. 2:13)
- Frees me to make much of _____ **Him** _____. (1 Pet 2:9)

PSALM 103 LITURGY (SERMON BELOW)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Leader: The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

People: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

People: 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.

Leader: Shout for joy people of God! Your King has come from heaven to take your place on the throne, to bind up your wounds, to give you new life in His name.

People: Amen. Christ the righteous, Savior of the world, be exalted in all the earth! You have taken away our shame, secured our glorious inheritance, and given us a reason to sing.

Leader: Shout for joy people of God! Your Good Shepherd has come to give you abundant life.

Everyone: Amen. Christ the righteous, Savior of the world, increase my longing for the joy of your presence. Tune my heart to sing your praise. Train my affections to treasure your glory. Increase my appetite to taste and see that you are good—sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!



GOD'S LOVE. GOD'S GLORY.

JN 11:1-6 | JN 17:20-26

Man's Love In The World...

Open to John 11. Recap vision Sunday. One more step. Invest. Walk with you but not for you. And so when we got as elders this past fall we decided that we wanted to help you take one more step in developing a solid theological understanding of love. In 2018 Carrie Underwood came out with the song loves wins. And as I listened to it, I thought it was passionate, stirring, I liked the melody. But something rung hollow in the song for me. The bridge for example says this, “Love is power, love is a smile, Love reaches out, love is the remedy, Love is the answer, love's an open door. Love is the only thing worth fighting for” And I thought to myself, “Yes Carrie but what IS love?” “Who’s version of love are you talking about?” Because what I call loving action and what you call a loving action may be completely different. Some parents spank and others don’t for the same reason—love. Some Americans protest war and some Americans go to war because they love our country. Some encourage same sex attracted friend to pursue that and others to deny it and both claim the same reason—because they love them.

And we need to understand that as true as it may be that love unites it’s just as true that *defining love* is very divisive. Everyone agrees loving people is a good thing. Defining what it means to love someone else becomes controversial very quickly.

And so for the next five weeks we’re going to be answering some of the most important questions about love. What does it mean that God loves you? What does it mean for you to love God? What does it mean to love your neighbor? What does love look like in practice? And if you look at our culture you’ll see a variety of answers...A few profiles of love here...

- Someone who *really* loves me...

- Accepts me without asking that I change.

Loving someone means accepting them as they are. Someone who loves me doesn’t challenge my beliefs, doesn’t critique anything about my lifestyle. They never call me out. They endorse all my decisions and goals. If anyone disapproves of my lifestyle or choice they don’t love me and they’re probably judging me.

- Give me the things that I want.

Someone who really loves me is someone who takes my list of needs in life and meets them. Love here is defined by you doing what **I** feel is best for me. I need to be happy, need to feel good about myself, I need to be successful and achieve all of my dreams in life, and everyone who really loves me agrees. And if your not onboard with helping me get what I want for myself, then you’re not really for me. You don’t love me.

- Reminds me of how wonderful I am.

On this view, the people who love me are the people who make me feel good about myself. People who love me are the ones who validate all my feelings regardless of whether or not I’m justified in feeling them. They wouldn’t dare tell me my feelings are wrong. On this view people who love me are the ones who constantly remind me how competent, strong, beautiful, and generally excellent that I am. And in my moment of weakness they tell to look in the mirror and remind myself of just how capable and gifted I am.

Someone who *really* loves me...

- Needs me to be happy.

Now I see this most in romantic love but it's everywhere so we have to mention it. Here someone's love for you—again romantic—is seen in how lost they'd be without you. If you could be ok, go on without me, you didn't love me all that much. Real love is LeeAnn Rhymes, "If I had to live without you, what kind of life would that be? Your my world my heart my soul and you ever leave—baby you would take away everything good in my life." Man she really loves this dude. Why because she needs him to be happy. I did this once. What I really meant by "I love you" was "I need you to be happy"

There may be a grain to salvage in some of these profiles but on the whole, they are inadequate pictures of love and it's important that we point these out because aside from being untrue, if you define love according to the profiles above you will hard pressed to feel like God loves you. I can't tell you how many people in our churches "know" that God loves them but don't "feel" like God loves them and it's because they are looking for God to show them the same love they are asking the world to show them and they're not getting it.

Think about it, God doesn't need you to be happy. He doesn't say that obedience is optional—that you don't have to change. He doesn't give you everything you would have chosen for yourself. If love is accepting you without asking you to change, giving you what you think is best for you, reminding you of how strong and capable you are, needing you to be happy—then God doesn't love you.

And so we've got a huge problem here. Either God isn't good at loving us. Or our understanding of love is mistaken. But since God is love, then it is certainly our understanding of love that needs to change. But if God's love for me doesn't mean he needs me, or gives me what I want or is committed to helping me reach all my personal dreams for myself, then what does it mean that God loves me? **Pray.**

A Different Kind of Love...

No one has been more influential to me than John Piper in my understanding of God's glory and how that relates to his love and our joy. In fact we're walking through some of this material on Wed night at our Systematic Theology seminar so if you're in it you'll recognize some of this material in Jn 11 and 17. Want to give credit where it's due. In John 11 we get some incredible insight into the nature of God's love for us and what that looks like. Now if you don't know this story, Jesus has a friend named Lazarus who dies and Jesus raises him from the dead. Those are the cliff notes.

"11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was."

Jesus loved them so much, he let Lazarus die. What would you do if you got that phone call and you had the antidote to save him? And yet Jesus out of love for him, stays where's he's at. Where is the love in that? And answer comes in verse 4, "But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Jesus counts it more loving to reveal his glory to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus through suffering than it is to preserve them from suffering.

- God's love for us is ultimately seen in His willingness to help us see and savor His glory. (Jn. 11:1-6; 17:20-26)

That is the most loving thing that God could possibly do for us is show us his glory! Now that's a very strange way to show someone love. And it's only appropriate for God to express love like this but he this is how he does it. I want you to see one more example of it in Jn. 17.

In Jn 17 we have what is referred to as the high priestly prayer. And it's one of my favorite prayers in the Bible because it's one of the only places where Jesus specially prays for you and me. "18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth." 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word," then he prays two things for us. What do you think those are? He prays in vs. 21-23 that we would be one; be united. And then in vs 24 look what Jesus prays for you; "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." He asked that you and I might see his glory. God's love for us is ultimately seen in his empowering us enabling us to see and savor his glory. And so if we want to understand the way God loves us we need to understand a few things...

A Differing Kind of Being...

- God is passionate about His glory. (Isa. 48:9-11; Eph. 1:4-6) "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols." (Isa 42:8) "...bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (Isa. 43:6-7) Ps. 19:1 says, "the heavens declare the glory of God" the Earth exists, you and I exist, God himself exists to exalt his glory! Now if you're new to church or just checking out Christianity for the first time, this may come off as a bit strange. You may hear all this—Jesus would rather them see his glory than spare them from suffering, God created us to glorify him—and think, "Is the God of the Bible self-centered?" All this "praise me" stuff...is this guy all about himself. And the answer is unequivocally YES! Our God is radically self-centered and radically self-exalting and you and I would be fools to want it any other way. Why?
- God's glory is the most awe-inspiring soul-satisfying thing in the universe (Ps. 16:11; Ps. 27:4) For me to be self-exalting and self-promoting stands at odds with your joy and satisfaction. God's self-promotion fuels your joy and satisfaction. That's why Ps. 16:11 is so important, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Joy that can't be increased, pleasure that never ends. That is what we get in God's glory. It's why David says in Ps. 27 "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple." This is what we were made for! Piper says it this way, "Why do we watch the World Series? Why do we watch gymnastics when the Olympics rolls around? Why do we go to the Grand Canyon? Why do we go to the Alps? Why do we go to the ocean and look out over? Why do we want to get near bigness and beauty and magnificence and excellence? It's because that's what we were made for. We were made for standing in front of what is infinitely beautiful and having it so satisfy us." It's why Moses begs God in no uncertain terms in Ex. 33:18 "Please show me your glory." Because God's glory is the most awe-inspiring soul satisfying thing in the universe, in the universe then the most loving thing he could do is give me more of that! Which leads us to a conclusion.

- Therefore, God's self- **exaltation** is His highest and most potent expression of love for me. (Phil. 2:9-11)

Because his glory is infinitely satisfying, he is the only being in the universe for whom it is loving to be self-exalting. To promote or exalt anything other than himself and his glory with leave me with an inferior joy. For him to hide his glory from me would not love me. So then we have an answer to our question, "What does it mean that God loves me.?" It means that He is, in Jesus, personally committed to revealing his glory to me and by the Holy Spirit helping taste and see the goodness of his grace and mercy and holiness and in so doing stand amazed. That's God love for you. That's what we're doing here at New Century! I want to see!

God's love for you in your marriage isn't seen in that it will be easy it is seen in His commitment to reveal his tenderness in your brokenness, his faithfulness in your doubting. God's love for you in your dead end job isn't that it will be fun tomorrow, it's seen in the reality that even though it's a drag, he gives you the power to love other people with his love so they wonder to themselves when you leave the room, "She must have something I don't." His love for you in your sickness and suffering isn't seen in whether or not it ends tomorrow. It's seen in his commitment to reveal strength in your weakness by carrying you when you don't feel like you can take another step. To come to you when your throat is parched from calling for help allow you to drink from a well of mercy and intimacy that is deeper than you ever could if he prevented suffering in the first place; where you're able to say even with tears in your eyes, When all around my soul gives way then is all my hope and stay. Or heart of my own heart whatever befall still be my vision oh ruler of all. God love is seen in his commitment to satisfy your soul with himself whether it be in the darkest valley or on the mountain top; it is his relentless commitment to show you over and over again that he is enough. So then, how does this look dramatically different from love according to the world?

God's Love In The Word...

In the world, love accepts me without asking that I change. In the word, God's love...

- Rescues me from my sin *and* **myself**! (Rom. 7:24-25)

In Rom. 7 Paul says, "Wretched man that I am who will rescue me from this body of death.?" He realized that he didn't just need to be rescued from the penalty of his sin, but that he needed to be rescued from himself. This is God's love for us, frees me from my pitiful attempt at ruling myself and puts me under new management. And causes us to walk in obedience. And when I'm doing that—when I'm living according to His design for me—I'm able to see and savor his glory in a way that I never could otherwise.

Jn. 14:21, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." Are you living in disobedience. One more 1 Sam. 3:21, "And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD." Bible reading plan! When I see God's glory in the Word my affections are changed... which leads us to number 2... Love in world is seen as someone affirming all my desires and giving me what I want. God's love for me is seen in that he helps me want what I should.

- Helps me want the things I **should**. (Phil. 2:13)

Talking with my broher about this: You don't want God to give you what you want. Giving you over to what you want is judgment, not love (Rom. (1) Only two kinds of people. People who God lets them have what they want and people for whom and changes what they want. People who God gives over to their desires and people to whom God give new desires. Phil. 2:13, "for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." This is good news! J.D. Greear, "Our wanters are broken."

And in his love for us, God pulls back the curtain on his glory and we say woah that's what I've been looking for. It gives us something new to live for. God's love for you isn't seen in making sure that you achieve your dreams. His love is seen in giving you better dreams. And when I see his glory and when I realized that I'm invited to participate in and help to advance that glory, it changes my vision for what winning in life looks like. Not a life centered around advancing my name and glory but around advancing his. Which leads us to our last picture of love...Love in the world is when people constantly tell you how wonderful and capable and beautiful you are; makes much of you and exalts you; The love of God isn't seen in his constantly making much of me but in his freeing and empowering me and make much of Him!

- Frees me to make much of Him. (1 Pet 2:9)

And all of this really comes to a head at the cross. You see you may hear me saying that God's love for us isn't seen in making much of us but in freeing us to make much of him and you may say, "But what about the cross? Doesn't the cross make much of us? Doesn't show how much God loves us." Absolutely it does! But the ultimate goal of the cross isn't our rescue it's God's glory!!! More specifically the cross is the means by which God rescues us so that we can spend eternity enjoying praising His glory. 1 Pet. 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Eph. 1:4-6, "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us[a] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved" Rev. 5:11-14, "Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.