

16th October 2016

The nature of God – Pt 2 – God is love

In our previous study on this topic we learnt that God is present in three persons – Father, the Word (the Son), and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. In this teaching we establish that God is love, and love according to God is sacrificial, and to access His love you must be in Christ.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God is love.

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (1Jn.4: 8).

See also: 1Jn 4:16.

It is clear that “God is love”, but does that mean that love is God? The context of 1Jn.4 is “one another” (verse 7) and the need to love each other, that is our brethren, because “God is love”. Hence the theme of the passage is not what love is and is not, but loving our brethren.

2. Love according to God is sacrifice – God loved us by giving His Son.

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1Jn.4: 10).

See also Jn.3: 16 & 1Jn.4: 9.

God’s love was manifested in the world when He sent his only begotten Son to be a sacrifice, a payment for our sin-debt.

3. To access God’s love you must be in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom.8: 39).

The love of God is great “wherewith he loved us” (Eph.2: 4), but that love is exclusively IN CHRIST Jesus, IN the body of Christ!

Additional comments on our three points – proof that God’s love is sacrificial –

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn.15: 13).

“Husbands, love your wives...as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph.5: 25).

Both of these commandments for a man to love include laying down his life, or comparing his love to the sacrificial love of Christ’s death on the cross.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

One event in my life that is forever imprinted on my memory is when a friend of 35 years left the Presbyterian church because there was no love, and was wooed by the apparent love of Pope Francis into the Roman Catholic religion.

Question to think about.

Does the apparent love that Pope Francis has for the poor, mean that he MUST be of God, as my late friend observed?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

i) Love that is of God can only be experienced when a person is IN Christ, and as the Pope is an anti-Christ, a deceiver, who holds the traditions of man above the scriptures, thereby “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition” (Mk.7: 13), he cannot know the love of God.

ii) A person can only pass on the love of God when they are IN Christ Jesus.

iii) The love that Pope Francis has for anybody does not include a sacrificial giving of himself.

God is love, but love according to God is sacrificial, and is shown to us by His love for the world when He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross for our sin. For any man to receive and share God’s love today he **must** be in the body of Christ. Amen!