

30 May 2017

God's love – Pt 1 – God's love is IN Christ Jesus.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God loved Israel.

"The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye [were] the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you..." (Deut.7: 7, 8). See also 1kgs.10: 9, 2Chr.9: 8 and Deut.10: 15 & 23: 5.

When we looked at God's chosen people, we noted God chose Israel not because they were fewest of all people, "But because the Lord loved you". And so this point has relevance to our topic today – God's love. God set His love upon Israel (Deut.7: 7) simply because "the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers" (verse 8).

2. Not all Israel have the love of God.

"But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you" (Jn.5: 42).

Unless your zeal for God is according to knowledge (Rom.10: 2) your zeal is in vain. The same applies to love – a man can profess to know God as did the Pharisee, but without truth he does not know the love of God. And so it was for the nation of Israel – not all Israel have the love of God.

3. The love of God today is in Christ Jesus His Son.

"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). See also 1Jn.3: 1.

God showed His love for this world when He "sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1Jn. 4: 10, see also Jn.3: 16 and Gal.2: 20). It is not surprising therefore that the love of God is in the body of Christ – the church (Col.1: 18), not the Vatican, nor those that call themselves "the church" and are not. Let us also remember that it is because of His love that "the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1Jn 3:1).

Additional comments on our three points.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1Jn.4: 16). And so God is love, but not all love is of God.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

A preacher witnessed Hari Krishnas singing and dancing their way up Queen st on Friday night, and one of the stragglers who had some of their propaganda literature stopped and told the preacher that God is love, and then approached him to give him a hug (wanting to share God's love). The preacher backed off, and asked the man to not hug him, and if he wanted to show him God's love he was to read the gospel tract the preacher put in his pocket. Finally, after three attempts of trying to hug the preacher the Hari Krishna walked off – committing to read the tract.

Question to think about.

How do we show God's love today? By going up and hugging everyone we see?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

NO! We show God's love to this evil world when we share the good news of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection from the dead. IF we spend our time hugging, doing, caring, being there for them, and **never** share the gospel that has the power of God to save a man, then we have **NOT** shared the love of God. Because the love of God is IN Christ Jesus. You see, God's love is shown by Him giving His Son, and we "walk in love" when we share of His Son's sacrifice, His giving of Himself for our sin.

So **IF** you want to love your neighbour or your family, then preach the glorious gospel to them. If you do not, then you have not shared the love of God, for the love of God is **in Christ Jesus**.