



What Love is This? - Who loves you *truly*? Does an answer come immediately to mind? If one does come to mind, how do you know that you are *truly* loved by that person? How can you be

sure? And with your answer given, how are you defining love? Is the love that you are thinking of the love of a father, a mother, a brother, sister, husband or wife? Perhaps you need more time to consider the importance of the question; after all *it is a very important question*. Of all the subjects that have ever been addressed in this world, the subject of love is the one that is the most frequented. This is the case because there is within every human heart a great desire to be loved. We see that many philosophies abound regarding the very nature and duration of love. Our radio and television airways are filled with programs and songs that regularly tout the importance of various forms of love. It is even rehearsed by many that the greatest love of all is *learning to love yourself*. What may seem like a simple question can appear to be a bit more complicated in light of the many opinions that exist in this world! However we can move very quickly from confusion to clarity if we go to the One who is the source of all *true* love. The Bible clearly reminds us that *God is love*, and therefore He is the singular source of all *true* love in this world (1 John 4:16). How foolish we would be to try to define love apart from the One who is its only source! So what does the Bible say about the nature of God's love? The Bible contains multiple descriptions of God's love, but in brief, here are six important truths that will be helpful for us to consider: **1. God's love is eternal (John 17:24)**. Love is one of the many attributes of the *eternal* God. His love can never end for He is the everlasting, eternal God (Psalm 136). **2. God's love is unchanging (Jeremiah 31:3)**. The affections of the human heart are often fickle and full of change. We frequently struggle with impure and selfish love, but God's love is untainted and unchanged because He the Lord changes not (Malachi 3:6). **3. God's love is beneficent (Matthew 5:45)**. God's beneficent love is experienced everyday by every creature on Earth through the gift of life (Acts 17:28) and the bounty of His blessings within creation (Romans 1:20, Acts 14:17). **4. God's love is sovereign (Romans 9)**. His love is not given based upon the condition of our worthiness, but according to His sovereign choice to give it. If one were to try to find any conditional aspect of God's love then let them find it in God's

Word, for the only condition that moves Him to love anyone is the *kind intention of His own will* (Ephesians 1). **5. God's love abounds with great mercy (Romans 5:8).** For His own good pleasure (Isaiah 46:9-13) God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45) in order to redeem many out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Revelation 5:9). Here is great and unfathomable mercy, for he who believes in the Beloved Son of God has eternal life (John 3:35-36)! And finally, one last characteristic of God's love is in order: **6. God's love is holy (Isaiah 61:8).** The Lord's love is neither capricious nor corrupt. His is a holy love that seeks the purity of His people (Ephesians 5:25-27). This love is uncompromisingly holy such that He lovingly disciplines His children in order to purify and sanctify them: Hebrews 12:5-8 - 5 "and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, 'MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;'" 6 "FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7 "It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" 8 "But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons."

What love is this? It is God's love which is the only *true love* in the Universe from which all other expressions of *genuine love* are derived. This love of God is *the greatest love of all*. How important it is to understand that *there is only One person who can love us truly*, eternally and without change; with perfect goodness, mercy and holiness. The Lord will never leave or forsake His children because of His eternal, sovereign and unconditional love. Is it your desire to be loved as a child of God? He will embrace you as His own if you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. You need not remain an illegitimate child, destined to perish forever (John 3:16), for the Lord's loving cry of mercy is extended to you this very moment as in Revelation 21:6-7 - 6 "...It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost." 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."

Pilgrim Bible Church, Pastor M. J. Beasley.