A Brief Commentary

on

 **God’s Eternal Love**

by

 Ken Rush

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 The love of God is often talked about, but seldom understood. I have heard many say, “God loves all people, so He wouldn’t really send anyone to hell.” This statement only shows their ignorance of who God is.

*1John 4:7,8 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that* ***loveth*** *is born of God, and* ***knoweth*** *God. He that loveth not knoweth not God;* ***for God is love****.*

**God is Love:** Not just that God loves, but God is **Love** itself. Love is the very nature of God.

Before we start applying what the **world** calls love to God, we need to understand that true Godly love is **not a weakness**, **not just a sentiment**, or **human emotion**. We must realize that God’s love is not based on you or me. You love your wife or husband because of the kind of person she or he is. **God’s Love is not influenced by any such thing. There is nothing whatever in us to attract God’s love.**

**Speaking to the Children of Israel, God said:**

*Deuteronomy 7:7,8* ***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****, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

**God is Light:**

*1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

In Scripture, Darkness stands for sin, and evil. Light stands for Holiness, and goodness. “God is light” means that **He is the sum of all excellency**. When we look at the love of God, we must look at it in the light of His perfection. Some seem to think that since God is love, that makes Him tolerant of sin. The truth is just the opposite, God hates sin, and therefore it was necessary for Christ to pay the price for our sin on the cross. He shall eventually remove His chosen ones from the **presence** of sin. Therefore we can conclude that God’s love is pure love, God’s love is Holy love, God’s love is perfect love, God’s love is a very precious love.

**Quote by Arthur Pink:**

“The truth is that on this, as on everything else, our thoughts need to be formed and regulated by what is revealed in Scripture. That there is urgent need for this is apparent not only from the ignorance which so generally prevails, but also from the low state of spirituality which is now so sadly evident everywhere among professing Christians. **How little real love there is for God**. One chief reason for this is because our hearts are **so little occupied** with His wondrous love for His people. The better we are acquainted with His love, its character, fullness and blessedness the more our hearts will be drawn out in love to Him.”

**God loves because of His own choosing to do so:**

*2Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus* ***before the world began,***

*1John 4:19 We love him,* ***because he first loved us.***

God did not love us because we loved Him. There was nothing within us to attract God’s love, in fact, our very sinful, depraved condition could only repel His love. He loved us before we even knew who He was.

**He loved us only because He chose to love us.**

*2Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling,* ***not according to our works****, but according to* ***his own purpose and grace,*** *which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

**Is He asking too much when He says love your enemies**? **Were we His enemies*?***

*Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

*Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**His love is eternal:**

*Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an* ***everlasting love****: therefore with* ***lovingkindness have I drawn thee.***

How precious! God loved us **before heaven and earth were called into existence.** How can this be? I do not know, but God directed Jeremiah to write it, so it is true.Too often people disregard something because they cannot understand it. But we must remember, God’s ways are not our ways, and God’s thought are not our thoughts. We need to learn to base our understanding on God’s word rather than our own thoughts.

*Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and* ***his ways past finding out!***

*Ephesians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as* ***he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world****, that we should be holy and without blame before him* ***in love:*** *Having* ***predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself****,* ***according to the good pleasure of his will,***

Oh! How we should praise Him for His marvelous grace in choosing us, for if He had not, we would be doomed forever.

**God’s love is sovereign:**

That is, God Himself is Sovereign, under no obligation to anyone. Therefore, acting according to **His own good pleasure**, He loves **whom He chooses to love.**

To better understand God’s sovereignty in choosing, let us ask the question, **why did God choose Abraham to be the beginning of the Hebrew nation?** **Was Abraham someone worthy of God’s love?**

God brought Abraham out of a family of idol worshipers. Remember when Jacob went to the city of Haran (named for one of Abraham’s sons) he went to the house of Laban, the son of Haran. Haran was a son of Terah, and Brother of Abraham. So Laban was Abraham’s Nephew. *(Terah had 3 sons Abram, Nahor, and Haran*) And Laban was still an idol worshiper. Remember when Jacob was fleeing Laban after working for him for over 20 years, and Jacob’s wife Rachel Jacob’s wife had stolen Laban’s idols?

*Genesis 31:32 With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them*.

**Lets look back many years to Abraham’s call:**

*Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD* ***had*** *said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country,* *and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:*

God **HAD** called Abram out of this idiolatry, out of the Ur of the Chaldees, out of Babylon, to make of Him a new Nation.

Why Abraham? **Because God, in His Sovereignty chose to place His love on him and separate him from his kindred.**

**Also God placed His love on Jacob:**

*Romans 9:10-13 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;* ***(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil****, that the purpose of* ***God according to election might stand****, not of works,* ***but of him that calleth****;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.* ***As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.***

**Why? Because God in His Sovereignty chose to.**

Most people do not have difficulty with accepting the fact of God’s choosing Abraham, Jacob, or the Nation of Israel, but when it comes to themselves a individuals, they refuse to accept it, mainly because they want to be master of their own lives. We only need to look at past history to see where that is a serious mistake.

**His love is immutable:**

That is, **never** changing. Praise God, for **if He changed,** our salvation would not be secure.

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights,* ***with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

 *John 13:1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that* ***he should depart out of this world unto the Father****, having loved his own which were in the world,* ***he******loved them unto the end.***

**God believes in tough love**:

*Hebrews 12:6-8 For* ***whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth****, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?* ***But*** *if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

**God’s love is gracious:**

*John 3:16,17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Christ didn’t die to make God love us. **But rather He died because God already loved** **us. So much that He sent His Son to that cruel cross to pay for our sin**. All by His marvelous grace, and all He requires of us is to trust Him by faith.

*Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are ye saved* ***through faith****; and* ***that******not of yourselves****: it is the* ***gift of God****:* ***Not of works****, lest any man should boast.*

**Another statement often made is: “God loves the sinner, He only hates the sin.” What does the Scripture say about that?**

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life;* ***but the wrath of God abideth on him.***

**Because of God’s love for His own, He must separate the saved from the unsaved.**

 *Matthew 25:31-34 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

**Are you one of His chosen? Do you really love God? Do you know if God really loves you?**

*1John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may* ***know*** *that ye have eternal life, and* ***that ye may believe*** *on the name of the Son of God.*

**If we are in God’s love, we are forever safe:**

*Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 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.*