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What You Need to Know About The Love of God: Part 2

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD (Part Two)

What are some vivid examples to illustrate God's love?

- A. There is one ancient French legend that dramatically illustrates the subject of undying love.** It concerns a godly and wonderful mother who had a godless and wicked son. In spite of her love and prayers, he continued to live a life of debauchery, wallowing in the depths of sin, while she continued to love and pray for him. One day, in a drunken rage the son killed his mother, and to demonstrate his contempt for her and her God, actually cut out her heart!

Later, he dug a hole into which he dropped her lifeless body along with the dismembered heart. According to the legend, as he turned to leave, the son stumbled and struck the hard ground heavily. Cursing and struggling to get to his feet the young man was totally amazed to hear a voice coming from his mother's heart, "Son," the voice said, filled with concern, "You fell! Did you hurt yourself?"

Well, you might say, that's only a silly legend. Not quite! Did you know in one sense of the word that ancient French legend actually happened in the spiritual realm some 20 centuries ago? In this case the wayward and wicked son was all humanity—haters of good and God!

Note how Paul describes our wretched and wicked condition:

"And it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known" (Rom. 3:10-17).

But then what happened? Well on this occasion it was a loving heavenly Father in view rather than an earthly mother. Spiritually speaking, God the Father actually allowed His sinful creatures to cut out His heart on Calvary's cross through the crucifixion of His beloved Son!

So what's the bottom line? Did this brutal and blasphemous act against the very heart of God cause the Sovereign Creator to hate and despise His sinful creatures? To the contrary. Listen to the following statements:

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God

commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6-8).

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others ... That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:1-3, 12, 13).

- B. Consider one final illustration:** When God was about to create man, says a Jewish legend, he took into his counsel the angels that stood about his throne. “Create him not,” said the angel of Justice, “for if those dost he will commit all kinds of wickedness against his fellow men; he will be hard and cruel and dishonest and unrighteous.” “Create him not,” said the angel of Truth, “for he will be false and deceitful to his brother-man, and even to thee.” “Create him not,” said the angel of Holiness, “he will follow that which is impure in thy sight, and dishonor thee to thy face.” Then stepped forward the angel of Love (God’s best beloved) and said: “Create him, our heavenly Father, for when he sins and turns from the path of right and truth and holiness, I will take him tenderly by the hand, and speak loving words to him, and then lead him back to thee.”

What is the most well-known Christian song depicting the love of God?

In 1917 Frederick M. Lehman penned a song he entitled simply, “The Love of God.” It had its roots in a Jewish poem, written in Germany in the eleventh century. The words of the third stanza (some of the greatest and most profound ever written) had been found penciled on the wall of a patient’s room in an insane asylum! Here are the words of the entire song:

*The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell,
It goes beyond the highest star—And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win:
His erring child He reconciled—And pardoned from his sin.*

*When years of time shall pass away—And earthly thrones kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call
God’s love so sure shall still endure, All measureless and strong:
Redeeming grace to Adam’s race—The saints’ and angels’ song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill—And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill—And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole—Tho stretched from sky to sky.*

Chorus:

*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure—The saints' and angels' song.*

--Prepared by Dr. H. L. Willmington, Dean
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