

Everybody Needs A Whole Lot Of Love

“Love covers a multitude of sins.”
1 Peter 4:8

When considering the issue that LOVE covers sin, often times it is misunderstood. Some think it means that to show love is to 'overlook' their sin. Some feel that love should never judge but just accept all, regardless. To gain a better understanding let's look at how love is conceived from the heart of the heavenly Father.

Points To Ponder:

1. God's love is the great 'leveling field' for all.

- It is the love of God that considers all human beings at the same juncture. Love sets no hierarchy of one human being more loveable, or better than another. Love considers all of us equal.

John 3:16 - God so loved THE WORLD - His love equalizes all considers us all in the same dire need.

2. God's love is a DEMONSTRATION not an EMOTION.

- Unlike human love, which often is governed from an emotional foundation, God's love isn't based off mere emotion.
- God's love is based off a SACRIFICE, not an EMOTION.
- His love cannot be known apart from the sacrifice.

Romans 5:8 - God DEMONSTRATED His love - that love was a SACRIFICE of Himself.

3. To EXPRESS God's love it must be expressed in the SACRIFICE OF JESUS.

- To say that love covers a multitude of sins is stating, "God loved you so much He punished Himself by sacrificing Himself for your punishment."
- So when you SHOW LOVE you are simply saying to others: "A sacrifice has been made for you because we all are guilty."
- To show love doesn't mean you are approving of the sin. Quite the contrary. To show love to others is making the point - "We are all guilty, but we've all been forgiven because of God's sacrifice!"
- So to show love it covers sin because love points people to the sacrifice of Jesus, not the judgment of your opinion.

1 John 4:7-19 - Love is not approval of sin. Love is the sacrifice of Jesus that forgives sin.

HOW GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE

1. Understand to WHOM God is showing love.

- God only has 2 categories of people. Those who are NOT HIS CHILDREN. Those who ARE HIS CHILDREN. *1 John 3:1; 10 John 8:34-47*
- God isn't in the business of categorizing sin = good, bad, worse
- God categorizes humans = those whom are Mine + those whom are not Mine.

2. God shows equal love to both categories of people.

- If love is to cover a multitude of sins it would, therefore, have to cover the sins of those in both categories of humans = Love would have to cover those whom are NOT HIS + those whom ARE HIS.
- The sacrifice of Jesus is the answer to both categories of humans because GOD IS LOVE.

1 John 4:18-19

TO THOSE NOT HIS OWN - God's love says FORGIVEN. Read Romans 5 again.

- God's sacrifice in Jesus saves us from wrath. **5:6-10**
- Because of Jesus' death we are now made right with God. **5:11**
- All are guilty because of Adam. Many will be made righteous because of Jesus. **5:19**
- By uniting with Christ, believing on His sacrifice, we share in the life He offers.

TO THOSE HIS OWN - God's love welcomes you and accepts you into His family.

- It was His love in the sacrifice of Jesus that became the entrance into His family.
- The love of God shown in the giving of Jesus is God's WELCOM MAT into His family.
- All are now welcome, regardless of past. By believing you are NOW FAMILY.

1 John 3:1 Through the lavishing of His love you can now be called God's children.

TO YOU PERSONALLY - God's love towards you moves you to love Him in return.

- God's love doesn't overlook you sin. God's love judged your sin.
- God's love moves you to love Him in return. This results in you desiring to live pure.
- God loving you moves you to obey Him and motivates you to stop sinning. ***1 John 3:3-6***

TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS - We are commanded to love others.

- WE LOVE by forgiving = not judging
- WE LOVE by welcoming and accepting = not gossiping and shunning.
- WE LOVE by living pure = not making excuses for sinful behavior.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why is it hard to SHOW LOVE to those you disagree with?

2. How would you explain this phrase:

"To love someone isn't approving of their behavior it's pointing them to Jesus' sacrifice."

3. Why do so many think SHOWING LOVE is to accept them and their sin the way they are?

4. Why do we often like to categorize sins rather than categorizing family?

Sins vs. Family of God vs. Family of Devil.