

The Love of God

By Scott Moller

*“This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.”
(1 John 3:16a)*

The world today seems to have a fixation with the word “Love.” It is talked about much, and it is sought after with great effort often seemingly in vain. Few seem to understand love or are even able to describe it. It is commonly mistaken for something it is not. Most do not know its source or what it truly is, while some think they have found it then seem to lose it. The world does not recognize what love truly is. It does not understand that God is love, the demonstrator of love, and the source of love.

It is through the Bible that we learn that God is love, we see God’s love for us, and that He is the source of true love in our lives. In fact, one of the overriding themes of the Bible is love. It is here that we can see what love really is from God’s point of view, not the false view of love that the world so often holds. How has God demonstrated His love toward us?

God’s love is demonstrated in life and provision. In Genesis 2:7, we learn that God formed man from the dust and breathed life into man, causing man to become a living being. God showed His love for man by creating him and giving him life. Not only did God give man life but he also provided for him through His creation. Initially, we learn in Genesis 2:8 that God planted a garden to be man’s first home, and in Genesis 2:18, God provided a suitable helper and companion so that man would not be alone. For each one of us today, God is still the provider of life and provision. He is the one who has given us our health, abilities, and talents. He has provided all of our resources that we so often take for granted until we don’t have them.

God’s love is also demonstrated in His patience with each one of us. We learn this in Psalm 103:8-18. He remembers how we were formed from the dust and that we are human. The Lord is compassionate and slow to anger. This passage says that He does not treat us as our sins deserve and that He loves those who fear (revere) Him. And lastly, He removes our sin and guilt from us.

Another way God demonstrates His love for us is through revelation and through His Word. God does not leave us without instructions or warning. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul describes the Scriptures as “God breathed,” signifying God as the source. Paul continues stating that the Scriptures are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. We also see in Hebrews 4:12 that the Word of God is living and active. The Word of God judges the thoughts and attitudes of man’s heart so that nothing is hidden from God to whom man must give an account. God loves man and does not want him to be in darkness; therefore, God gave us His Word.

The greatest way in which God showed us His love was by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tells in Romans 5:5-8 that God sent His Son, while we were still powerless, ungodly sinners, to die in our place. It was by this act that God completely demonstrated His love for us, even though we were most undeserving of that love. The Apostle John reiterates this thought in 1 John 4:9-10 when he tells us that God sent His one and only

Son that we might live (obtain salvation). Jesus Christ became an atoning sacrifice on our behalf for our sins. God provided the means of salvation through Jesus while we were still in opposition to Him. God loves us in spite of ourselves.

Finally, God loves us by giving us the hope of eternity. Jesus tells us in John 14:1-3 not to let our hearts be troubled because He was going to prepare a place for us. In addition, He promised to come back and take us to be with Him. Jesus also promises in Revelation 22:12-13 that He is coming soon and his reward will be with Him. God will love those who follow Him for all eternity.

These are just a few examples of how God demonstrated His love for us. It is through God's love for us that we gain understanding of true love and that God is the source of love. As we begin to understand and appreciate God's true love for us, our love for God and others will begin to grow. In this, God will be glorified.