

Topics in I, II, and III John

Bible Love

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love”

I John 4:8

Introduction:

The apostle John recorded, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life”* (Jn. 3:16). The love of God is made manifest through His Son Jesus. God the Father sent Jesus into the world to bear witness of the truth (Jn. 6:39-44, 57) and to be a living sacrifice and die for the sins of the world (Jn. 18:11; Gal. 1:3-4; I Jn. 4:14). True Bible love is defined in I John. True Bible love is represented in two ways. First, Bible love is seen in caring for people’s physical well being (I Jn. 3:16-17). Secondly, Bible love is found in one’s care for the souls of men (I Jn. 4:10-11). This article shall examine Bible love through the life of Jesus. The premise is that since Jesus is God (I Jn. 5:20), and God is love (I Jn. 4:8), Jesus is our highest example of how to love (I Pet. 2:21).

I. A brief history of the Christ in prophecy:

- A. The scriptures foretell of the Messiah being born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14 / Matt. 1:18-25) during the days of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:44 / Matt. 2:1, 13-15; Lk. 2:1-7) in the city of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 / Matt. 2:1-6; Jn. 7:41-42).
- B. Jesus was of the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3 / Gal. 3:8, 16) and David (II Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 7:10-14 / Matt. 1:1, 6, 17; Lk. 1:30ff).
- C. Jesus came into the world to bless all nations with the opportunity to have the forgiveness of sins (Gen. 22:18; Isa. 53:4-6 / Gal. 3:26-29; Heb. 9:27-28).
- D. The prophet Isaiah referred to Jesus as *“Immanuel”* (Isa. 7:14 / Matt. 1:18-23) and king of His kingdom (Isa. 6:5; Jer. 23:5-7 / Jn. 12:36ff; 18:33-37).
- E. He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zech. 9:9 / Matt. 21:4-5) and later sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13 / Matt. 26:14-16; 27:9-10).
- F. This Jesus would be crucified (Isa. 53:7-8 / Lk. 23:33) and gazed upon while on the cross (Zech. 12:10 / Jn. 19:37).
- G. Jesus was too raised from the dead (Ps. 16:9-11 / Matt. 12:39-40; 28:1-6; Acts 2:22-28) and for ever be recognized as the *“Son of man”* (Dan. 7:13 / Matt. 8:20; 26:64).

II. A brief history of the life of Christ:

- A. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea and quickly moved North to Galilee where he spends the first thirty years of His life (Lk. 3:23).
- B. Jesus lived a perfect life never one time committing a sin (Jn. 8:46; Heb. 4:15).
- C. Jesus performed many miracles and acts of compassion to the multitudes (Matt. 14:14).
- D. Jesus preached a message that led mankind to repentance and eternal life (Lk. 13:3).

III. The life of Jesus defines love:

- A. The catalyst event that leads Jesus to the cross (Jn. 2:13-22).
- B. Do you really know what Jesus is all about? Below is an examination of seven areas of the Lord’s life that will help us see what Jesus was and is all about.

1. **Jesus performs miracles:** The purpose of NT miracles was to confirm the word of God as being true (Mk. 16:20; Jn. 20:30; Heb. 2:2-4). Jesus not only performed miracles to confirm the word of God but He did so because He had compassion on those who were sick (Matt. 14:14). When Jesus performed a miracle, He was illustrating His great love for man in two ways. First, the miracles showed His love for man's physical needs. The apostle John said, "*But whoso has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need, and shuts up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him?*" (I Jn. 3:17). Jesus healed people of their sickness because it hurt Him to see people suffering. Secondly, the miracles illustrated love for man's souls in that they confirmed the saving message of truth to be fact. Jesus' words were proved to be of divine origin by the miracles He performed. This is love defined. Again, John said, "*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins*" (I Jn. 4:10). The message Jesus preached is the information everyone needs to be saved. Not only did Jesus show His love toward people's physical needs but He met their spiritual needs as well. This is the love that we as God's people are to have toward mankind (I Jn. 4:17).
2. **The miracles give Jesus fame and an audience for His message:**
 - Matthew 4:24-25; 22:33; 23:1
 - Mark 4:1, 6:14, 30-34, 54
 - Luke 4:14; 5:1; 7:11; 8:40-42; 11:29; 12:1; 19:47-48
 - John 2:23; 4:47; 6:5, 24; 12:12-19
3. **Jesus preached:**
 - The coming Kingdom (Mk. 9:1; Lk. 10:9; 13:18ff).
 - Repentance (Lk. 10:13; 13:3; 17:3).
 - Keep God's commandments (Lk. 11:28; Jn. 7:17; 8:31, 51).
 - Forgiveness (Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35; Lk. 7:47-48; 17:4).
 - The erring and hard hearted have no place with God (Matt. 13:14-15; Jn. 7:33-34; 8:19-21, 24, 34).
 - Those who hear, learn and believe shall be saved (Jn. 6:44-45, 65; 10:9).
 - Those who desire heaven shall find it through Jesus (Matt. 13:16-18; Lk. 10:24; 12:36; John 7:37-37).
 - The horrors of hell (Matt. 13:47-50; Lk. 12:4-5).
 - Jesus' message was intended to "*cast fire upon the earth*" and cause "*division*" even in the family (Lk. 12:49-53).
4. **Jesus exposed sin:**
 - Matthew 5:20; 10:34-38; 12:30, 34; 15:10-14; 23:33
 - Mark 3:5
 - Luke 11:29, 39-52; 12:1; 13:15; 16:14-17; 17:3; 19:45-46
 - John 6:26; 7:7; 8:44, 55; 9:41
5. **Jesus proclaimed His deity:**

- At Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30)
 - At Samaria (Jn. 4:25-26)
 - At Capernaum (Mark 2:10)
 - At Gerasenes of Decapolis (Luke 8:39)
 - While feeding the 5000 at the Sea of Galilee (Jn. 6:34-42, 62).
 - On the road to Caesarea Philippi (Mk. 8:27; Matt. 16:13-19)
 - On the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:5)
 - At Judea the day after the Feast of Tabernacles in the temple (John 8:46, 58; 9:36-37)
 - At the Feast of Dedication (Jn. 10:24-25, 33)
 - The upper room discussion while partaking of the Feast of Passover (Jn. 14:8-9)
6. **Some recognized the authority of Christ:**
- Matt. 15:7-14; 16:17; 21:23-25
 - Lk. 5:24ff; 10:17
 - John 7:46; 8:12; 10:18; 20:28
7. **Jesus experiences hostility due to His preaching:**
- Isaiah 53:3
 - Matthew 2:13; 12:10, 24; 27:1, 18
 - Mark 2:6-7, 16, 18, 24; 3:5-6; 8:11
 - Luke 11:53-54; 19:47-48
 - John 4:1-3; 6:41-42; 7:1, 19, 32; 8:37, 40, 59; 10:20, 31; 11:47-53; 12:19
 - Trial and crucifixion of Jesus

Conclusion:

What comes to your mind when you think of love? Is it kindness, gentleness, sweetness, inner warmth, comfort, peace, compromise, getting along with all men, anti-aggression, anti-debate, anti-conflict, anti-controversial? It may not surprise some to find that the Word of God states, “*God is love*” (I Jn. 4:8); however, it may surprise many to find the meaning of love in the life of Jesus. Yes Jesus was the essence of love and compassion (Matt. 14:14; Lk. 19:41), yet His love was not a mere mental ascent or empty words. The love of Jesus was manifest in action:

- He lovingly performed miracles (Matt. 14:14).
- He lovingly rebuked men of sin
- He lovingly preached a message of repentance and eternal salvation
- He lovingly proclaimed His deity (Jn. 8:24).
- He lovingly proclaimed His authority
- He lovingly accepted the pain of hostile enemies

What is Bible love? Bible love recognizes the urgency of life and is willing to sacrifice all for the sake of others (II Cor. 4:16-17). Paul and his preaching companions had suffered to the point of death for the sake of the gospel message (II Cor. 1:8-9) but he knew that the ultimate

victory rest in Jesus (II Cor. 2:14). When we live as Jesus lived (I Pet. 2:21) and love as Jesus loved (I Jn. 4:17) we will suffer hostilities as He and His disciples did (II Tim. 3:12). The apostle John said, “*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life*” (Rev. 2:10).