

# The Examiners

...Examining the Scripture daily to see whether these things were so...Acts 17:11

## THE TRAGEDY OF LOVE

The Bible is the only rightful authority on the subject of love since God is the only Person who knows the reality and truth above love. There are four major categories of love and each is bundle with human misunderstanding and delusion brought by ignorance of Bible doctrine. We are going to study each major category with its subcategories. The major categories are:

1. The love of God for God
2. The love of God for man
3. The love of man for God
4. The love of man for man

## GOD'S LOVE FOR GOD

God's love for His own essence gives explanation to 1 John 4:8 statement "God is love". Only God is said *to be* love. We may love someone or some thing but we never *are* love. Human love is always related to an object but God's love is an attribute of His perfect essence, an integral part of who and what He is and also His love is the epitome or essence of love itself. God is immutable and eternal; therefore His love always existed, even when there is no possible object of love.

Human fall in love or fall out of love, but God does not. Our love for another person can grow or disappear but God's love remains eternal and change -less. Our love fluctuates, His does not. Changes in man do not create changes in God's love, because His love does not depend on us or any other created object. God's justice and righteousness support and guarantee His love, but His love also is directed toward His own perfect character. This -

tremendous inner affinity within the attributes of God is expressed in the statement that God is love. He loves who and what He is. He loves His own righteousness and justice (Psalm 11:7 33:5, 37:28). In man, total love is arrogance because we are imperfect and sinful. In God, total love is not only legitimate because He is perfect but also He is absolutely worthy.<sup>1</sup>

God would compromise His justice and righteousness if He loved anything less than perfection. He would also be compromised if He failed to love His perfect essence. God exists in three separate distinct persons, each having identical divine attributes.<sup>2</sup> God is three persons, but one in essence. When the essence of God is in view, God is said to be one; when the individual members of the Godhead are in view, God is said to be three. The doctrine of the Trinity introduces a distinction in describing God's love: God's love for God is both subjective and objective.

God's subjective love is the love of each member of the Trinity for His own righteousness. God's objective love is each Person's love for the other two members of the Trinity. The attributes of God's essence guarantee that God's subjective thinking is perfect. In human, subjectivity is evil because of our imperfection. God's love for God is subjectively internal within the essence of each member of the Godhead and objectively external between the members of the Godhead. This love relationship between the three members of the Trinity is the most exclusive relationship in the universe. The entry requirements are infinite, absolute, and perfect -impossible for sinful man to meet. We have no access with God apart in grace.

<sup>1</sup> See Bible Doctrine Book 2 page 10-18

<sup>2</sup> Ibid pages 19-21

## GOD'S LOVE FOR MAN

God's love for man is the divine love directed (outside the Godhead) toward imperfect man. As in God's love for God, divine integrity is involved except that it resides only in the subject, not in the object of love. God's love for man falls into two categories:

- Impersonal love for unbelievers
- Personal love for believers

Divine impersonal love emphasizes the subject while divine personal love emphasizes the object. Impersonal love emphasizes the perfect justice and righteousness of God. Personal love emphasizes the believer's status as a member of the royal family of God forever (John 1:12, Heb. 12:5-14). Divine impersonal love is without condition, directed toward all men, while personal love is conditional to all believers who express faith alone in Christ alone and become possessors of the imputed righteousness of God.

The standard factor for God's love, both impersonal and personal is always his own absolute righteousness and justice. He loves only what His righteousness approves. God cannot compromise any divine standard without destroying His righteousness and justice. If His perfect justice and righteousness are compromised, so is His love. God cannot be God if He loves the unworthy, yet He is said to love every member of the human race (John 3:16), whom He condemns at birth (Romans 5:19). The solution is found in divine impersonal love, which depends exclusively on the absolute character of God, and never on merits, capability and ability of man.

Divine Impersonal Love
Emphasizes subject
Emphasizes the integrity of God
Unconditional
Directed toward all men

Divine Personal Love
Emphasizes object
Emphasizes positive volition of man
Conditional
Directed toward all believers

Every barrier between God and man was removed by the salvation work of Christ on the cross so that only the cross now stands between man and God. Only one issue remains; our volition. We must freely believe in Christ to be saved. We are saved by the grace of God (by the work of Christ) through faith (the act of human volition to believe).

We can know and understand divine love only through Bible doctrine. No other book has accurate information and explanation about the love of God for man. Divine personal love toward believers is manifested in three phases:<sup>3</sup>

- Divine love in logistical grace
- Divine love in spiritual advance
- Divine love in maturity
- Divine love in eternity

Divine impersonal love for mankind is manifested in three phases:

- Common grace for all mankind
- Delaying mankind's final GWT judgment (Romans 2:4)
- Divine love in salvation (1 John 2:2)

All throughout our temporary stay in the world, God's logistical blessings from the justice of God continues to shower upon every believer regardless of spiritual status. Every blessing and every curse comes from the justice of God never from God's love. God's love for the believers is not understandable and perceivable only inside the divine power and love system.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See Bible Doctrine Book 3 pages 90-97

<sup>4</sup> Ibid pages 102-103

## THE LOVE OF MEN FOR GOD

God's love for each member of the human history is the only perfect love in the entire universe. God's love for members of the human history is often not understood. Human love for God is always the source of tremendous pains and sufferings. The human love for God is the source of terrible problems and delusions because of the following facts:

- The spiritually dead unbeliever cannot love God.
- Loving God is associated with knowing God.
- Loving God is always related to obeying the Word of God.
- Man cannot love God with his human love

Religions have earned a lot of money by teaching humanly invented doctrines that makes people feel comfortable and approved by God. They deceitfully invented rituals, traditions, practices, and methods that relieve guilt of sin from the human souls.

The perfect God has already provided the perfect way for man to approach God. He has already created man access to God. There is no need for man to burn his body just to be accepted or approved. God accepts us on the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ not on the basis of what we have done or what we have not done.

At the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ has already forgiven man even when he did not ask for forgiveness. Even before man comes to realization that he is a sinner, Christ already paid all our sins on the cross. The sins of all men of all times were included on the cross.

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5: 8).**

After a person accepted the free gift of salvation, that is after we received the imputed righteousness of God, by our progressive, systematic intake of Bible doctrine we will know who and what God is. After accumulating doctrine in the soul and reaching spiritual adulthood the believer will develop his love toward God. That love is called virtue personal love, the only love that God can accept from the believer. Virtue personal love for God demands several standard factors:

- The imputed righteousness of God in the believer
- Residence in divine power system or dynasphere<sup>5</sup>
- Bible doctrine in the soul

**By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.**

(1 John 5:2)

There are four realities related to loving God that none of us can break:

- To love God is know the Word of God
- To love God is to love the Word of God
- To love God is to obey the Word of God
- To love God is to love the children of God

Religions have already gained vast amount of wealth by teaching that man can love God by human capability and by human resources. Human love has four flawed elements. Do you think you can love God with these four flawed characteristics?<sup>6</sup>

<b>SEX</b>	<b>THOUGHT</b>
<b>EMOTION</b>	<b>RESPECT</b>

### Matthews 15:7-9

<sup>5</sup> Bible Doctrine Book 4

<sup>6</sup> The Examiners Vol. 2 No. 3 February 2002

## THE LOVE OF MAN FOR MAN

There are 3 major categories of human love for man:

- Pseudo –Erotic love
- Virtue-dependent love
- Virtue-impersonal love

PSEUDO EROTIC LOVE is arrogance hidden behind a façade of emotion and hypocritical words. It uses others for personal advancement, pleasure, self-gratification or as props to hold up one's weaknesses. It is the notorious cause of human pains and sufferings manufactured by bad decisions and personal sins.

Pseudo erotic love is attracted to the physical characteristics fired by human passion and desire for sexual pleasure. It burns right away after just a quick look. It will never stop until it finds expression in self-gratification. Love is defined as sex and sex as love. Its virtue lies in the sex organs. This is the love of the homosexuals and lesbians, the love of sex-hungry men and women.

VIRTUE-DEPENDENT LOVE includes two categories:

ROMANCE – a human personal love for one or more member of the opposite sex with the primary purpose of physical enjoyment. Some romantic relationships lasted and survived the many storms of life, built-up by trial and errors of formula for ideal family.

Majority of romantic relationship starts from primarily physical attraction and developing into emotional attachment bypassing rational and reality. In some cases it defies authority and anything on its way just for its fulfillment. In most cases it is idealistic without truth. In most cases, it dies naturally after losing sight of the virtue it adores. It loves the loveable and what it likes, and die when what it like is gone.

FRIENDSHIP – a personal admiration for the members of either sex with the primary purpose of enjoying physical presence and companionship. Like the virtue-dependent romantic love, the virtue-dependent friendship is selfish, idealistic, and conceited. It is selfish because it is after what it can get. It is idealistic because it hold-on on its demands and desires, requiring it's subject to irrationally submit. It is conceited because it thinks that he is the most loveable person in the whole universe.

Such relationship may survive many storms of life but only until it gets what it wants and what it likes. It is shaken by turmoil of complicating personalities and many disagreements of life and principles. It uses the wiles, threatening and compromises. Always, someone has to take all the pains and suffering.

VIRTUE-IMPERSONAL LOVE expresses strength that belongs exclusively to spiritual adult believer as result of his personal knowledge of God stabilized by Bible doctrine in the soul. This is the love of believer learned, developed and enhanced by consistent, systematic and progressive intake of doctrine that passed the fire of preventive suffering.

Virtue-impersonal love is the love commanded for the believers to love our fellow brethren, our enemies, and the people around us. It is the love of man for his fellowmen recognized and approved by God.

This love is the integral part of the spiritual autonomy, the most versatile problem-solving device in the divine plan of God (1 Corinthians 13:13). It is sustained by the power of the filling of the Holy Spirit, fueled by depth Bible doctrine resources in the soul. It is the believer capacity for life, love and true happiness, equipping them for the most intense suffering that involves people. - Rev. Josef Cherreguine

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