

God and Man

Our love for God, which is manifested in worship, praise, reverence, and appreciation, is a response to God's love for us. It's the basis for our fellowship with God and each other.

1 John 4:7-10, 17-21

1 John 4:7-10 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (9) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the **propitiation** for our sins.

Propitiation: a sin offering, a substitute, a sin-eater, a way to make amends with God.

1 John 4:17-21 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (19) We love him, because he first loved us. (20) If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Introduction: Vertical & Horizontal

- The love of God is the foundation of our faith (**Vertical Relationship**)
- The love of God also makes it possible to have relationships with one another (**Horizontal Relationship**)
- Without God's love we wouldn't know how to love each other
- It all began when God created mankind
- And it was for the purpose of relating to Him in love

God's Love-Relationship with Man

God Created Man

- God created the universe from nothing – only His spoken Word
 - Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24
 - The most important creation was reserved until last – man
 - Same amount of time as the sun, moon, and stars
 - Most important is the fact that God created man in His own image

God Gave Man Dominion

- God rules over His creation
- God gave man the authority to rule over animals, plants, and the environment
- **Genesis 1:28-30** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (29) And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. (30) And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for meat: and it was so.
- This delegated authority carries an implied responsibility for good stewardship

God Gave Man Salvation & Redemption

- Man's sin in the garden ended God's intended ideal for humanity
- With punishment comes mercy – He granted them a way of deliverance. (*see Genesis 3:16*).
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].
- Animal sacrifice was only a representation for an imperfect sacrifice
- The blood of Jesus Christ was a perfect sacrifice

➤ **Here is the Reality of Salvation:**

- *There are none so good that they can save themselves*
- *There are none so bad that God cannot save them*

➤ The New Birth Experience bridges the gap that divides the human soul from God

➤ **Salvation is:**

- A process that begins with faith in God
- Repentance from sin
- Baptism in water in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Receiving the promised Gift of the Holy Ghost
- The beginning of a beautiful relationship with God
- It progresses through life and it reaches it's highest point in saving of soul & body (*see 1 Thessalonians 5:23*).

What Should be Man's Response to God's Love?

1. Praise & Worship

- It is an instinctive desire and response to what we feel
- (*See Psalm 96*)

2. Reverence

- A holy fear or respect for the power and majesty of God
- Reverence is a sign of moral strength
- Irreverence is an indication of moral weakness
- No man will rise high who speaks out against and vocally abuses the sacred things of God...

3. Appreciation & Love

- You can't love without expressing it
- Appreciation and love are expressed by:
 - Worship
 - Praise
 - Offerings
 - Committed service
 - A sincere expression of gratitude for all that God has done

4. Fellowship with God

- Holiness allows us to have fellowship with God
- Without the cleansing blood of Jesus we could not be close to God
- His blood allows us to have fellowship with God in an intimate and personal way

Establishing a Vertical Relationship

- God's creative genius is:
 1. His wisdom & power
 2. It is beyond human ability & comprehension (*see Isaiah 55*)
 3. He is the ALMIGHTY
 - Yet he humbled himself
 - He put on humanity in the PERSON of Jesus Christ
 - He became like a man
 - This is the great mystery of godliness
 - *See 1 Timothy 3:16*
 - *See Philippians 2:6-11*

God Has Put Man First

- Man is at the top of the natural order for life on earth
- As proof of God's love toward mankind He has provided several things:
 1. **Salvation, Redemption & Fellowship**
 2. **Wise men still seek Him**
 - We should seek God – *Jeremiah 29:13*
 - We're promised to find God – *Matthew 7:7*
 - If we don't bother to seek Him – we won't find him
 - **And worse: if we turn from God after we've decided to serve Him we create a terrible picture for ourselves:**
 - **2 Peter 2:20-22** For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (21) For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered

unto them. (22) But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog [is] turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

- **Deuteronomy 28:15** But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

3. We Need to Maintain Our Relationship With God

- That is our task – *that is the “seeking” part*
- God is always available, ready & willing
- God is always able to help us – but we must call on His name
- **It is up to us to:**
 - Worship & Serve Him
 - With willing hearts
 - Doing this is what gives us joy
 - To fail to do this is the cause of missing out on the greatest relationship on earth

Man Should Put God First!

- Putting God first is the proper priority for achieving a truly blessed life
- When we recognize Jesus’ Kingship – We give him our worship
- A person may be worthy of our ADMIRATION
- But only Jesus Christ is worthy of our ADORATION

Vertical Relationship Affects Horizontal Relationships

- Our relationship with God is a **VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP**
 - He is above us
 - We are beneath Him
 - But since He came down to our level (See Philippians 2 again)
 - He relates Himself to us
 - We are able to have access to Him

➤ **It's just as if Jesus says to us, "Give me all."**

- Not just "so much" of yourself – but all of yourself
- Not just "so much" of your money
- Not just "so much" of your work
- Not just "so much" of your abilities
- But all of yourself

Seek ye first: Matt 6:33
Delight thyself: Psalm 37:4

➤ **He wants you to hand over ALL OF YOUR NATURAL SELF**

- Your desires
- Your thoughts
- He will give you a new self
- He says, "I will give you Myself"
- He says, "My own shall become yours"

Whether they are good or bad...
He knows what to do with them

Why? Why? Why?

Why should we bring ourselves

- Ourselves & our spirit of worship
- Because this opens us up to the goodness of God
- Because it opens us up to fellowship with our Creator
- It opens to us the opportunity for a transforming experience

Moses' face shown for days after he had been on the mountain in God's presence...

Exodus 34:28-35

- It frightened the Israelites
- He had to put a veil over his face to calm their fears
- Our relationship with God can also have a profound impact
 - On how we relate to our fellow human beings
 - On how they react to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - If God is our friend – then we should be friendly to others
 - He is loving & kind – we should be loving & kind

SUMMARY

- The relationship between God and man is built on the love of God
- He loved us first and we love Him in response
- He came down to our level
 - To help us
 - To provide salvation for us
- Our gratitude for all that He has done for us is expressed in various ways:
 1. By our worship
 2. By our praise
 3. By our service to Him
- Our relationship with the Lord should be vibrant & growing
- It should be the focus & purpose of our lives
- As we better relate to him – we'll better relate to others
- Today we walk with Him
- But someday soon we shall be with Him
 - We shall be like Him
 - We shall see Him face-to-face