

**The Manner of God's Love**  
**Harmony M.B.C., September 24, 2006; September 23, 2012**  
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**I John 3:1** “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

The hardest task men have in proclaiming the glories of God is that of expounding the love of God for fallen men. We wrestle with it and we try to get our minds around it, but we fail miserably to both comprehend the magnitude and wonder of it and express it in any sense that does justice to it. It is as though an aborigine in the wilderness of Australia were trying to explain the science and function of a micro chip, or as though a dog were trying to explain the mechanical and electronic functions of a modern-day automobile. When we seek to expound the fact of God's love it is as though we are blind men staggering about trying to describe what light is like.

God's love is the paradox of the ages because it defies every carnal rule that men use in their practice of love among themselves. As humans, we have an unwritten set of guidelines about love that are ingrained in our human natures. Those rules run something like this:

- Love is something you express toward those who show affectionate behavior toward you
- Love is practiced mostly to the degree that love is shown to you in return
- Love is shared with someone in proportion to how much they love you
- Love is not extended toward your enemy
- Love is retracted if those to whom you express love do bad things that harm, offend, or wound you.
- Love must find a worthy recipient before given

Most of us will admit that those are the rules by which we, and our fellow humans, practice human love. Culturally, most societies are taught rules similar to this almost everywhere across the earth. Even the Jews with their biblical rules about loving their neighbors as themselves managed to customize the meaning of neighbor so that they were not obliged even under the law of God to love the despicable, unclean Gentile. The hypocritical lawyer in Luke 10 who was trying to figure a way of justifying his obviously distorted view asked Jesus who his neighbor was supposed to be and Jesus' answer revealed a lost dimension on the subject. In His explanation, he teaches us that “neighbor” can be any human being to whom we have opportunity to do good. In fact, the wounded Samaritan in the ditch that Jesus used to personify what a neighbor is was one of the most despised cultures to the Jews. What he also reveals to us is that we all, almost without exception, have a customized view of who our neighbor is. Thus it goes among humanity. We practice our humanitarian policies on both small and large scales in an effort to express human love, yet we never in the flesh get to the real and full manifestation of it because as creatures we lack the capacity to express love in its largest sense. And so, in order for us to advance just a little further in manifesting the boundless attribute of God, called “love,” we want, this morning to try to take a good look at the manner of it and may the Lord of Glory give us light and understanding as we notice:

The Manner of His Love (Uniqueness and Power of it) is Wonderfully Presented In His:

## I. Giving Life to The Dead So They Could Live With Him Forever

### ■ Ephesians 2:1-5

▶ The nature of our deadness (in trespasses and in sins) was the most offensive

■ **Colossians 2:13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

■ The Made Alive Part - the Eternal Perspective

▶ **I Cor. 15:52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed.

The Manner of His Love (Uniqueness and Power of it) is Wonderfully Presented In His:

## II. Making Enemies Members of His Household and Citizens of His Kingdom (to be Children of God we must be at peace with God...that is reconciled to God)

■ **See Romans 5:10** "...when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son...."

▶ **Colossians 1:21** "And you...were sometime alienated and enemies in *your mind* by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled "

▶ **Ephesians 2:19** "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

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## III. Making Spiritually Bankrupt Beggars and Slaves Heirs of His Riches (to be Children of God is to be free from bondage and in a condition where we need not beg)

■ **Romans 8:17** "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...."

■ **Matthew 5:3** Blessed *are* the **poor in spirit**: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

▶ Blessed are the 'Spiritual beggars'

■ Paul's summary of our condition when we were lost helps us understand what spiritual poverty is (**Ephesians 2:12**) "That at that time ye were **without Christ**, being **aliens from the commonwealth of Israel**, and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope, and **without God** in the world:"

■ **Romans 6:17; 6:20** both say that when we were lost we were the slaves of sin

The Manner of His Love (Uniqueness and Power of it) is Wonderfully Presented In His:

## IV. Making The Profane and Vile Both Holy and Blameless (to be accepted as Children of God we must be pure and holy)

■ **Ephesians 1:4** "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame** before him in love:"

■ **Isaiah 1:18** "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your **sins be as scarlet**, they shall be as white as snow; though they be **red like crimson**, they shall be as wool."

■ **Ephesians 2:3** "Among whom also we all had **our conversation** in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

## V. The manner of His love is gloriously highlighted by the fact that it existed before time, it is unchanging and we cannot be separated from it:

■ **Ephesians 1:4** "According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**,

that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”

► This is both a past tense, a present tense, and a future tense message. If it occurred in eternity (as it did), then it has its existence in eternity. So, it can never end.

- **Romans 8:38-39** “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. There is nothing you can do to make God love you less. His love is unconditional, impartial, everlasting, infinite, perfect!**

—**Richard C. Halverson** (an American Presbyterian preacher - 1916-1995)

### **Extra Verses**

**1John 4:10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

**John 15:9** As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

**2Cor. 5:14** For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: