

**Love** (to have pleasure in) **is used with regard to**

Things – the seizure of the object which causes the desire

Actions – the performance of the action which causes the desire.

Persons- (see the next study)

Love is described as **a desire/emotion** (spontaneous feeling) which impels to **self-giving**.

And thus, love can be either

- 1) desire/emotion (which causes self-giving)
- 2) an action of self-giving, (caused by a desire/emotion)

When we speak about **God’s love for man**, it is the result of **His person (who He is)**.

1 John 4:8, He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**.

1) **Desire/Emotion** within His person that causes self-giving

John 3:16, “For God so **loved** the world **that He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2) **An Act of self-giving** (as a result of His desire)

1 John 4:10-11 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us and sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so **loved us**, we also ought to love one another.

Most of the time, God’s love for man is described as **pity for the needy**, by a God who is merciful. Although the term love is not absent in the Old Testament, the description of God’s self-giving love for us may use words other than love.

1. **Election** (choosing them or making a covenanting with them)

Deuteronomy 10:15 “**The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them**; and **He chose** their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

2. **Showing Mercy/Love**

Exodus 20:5-6 ...For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup>but showing **mercy** (Hesed) to thousands, to those who **love** (Ahav ) Me and keep My commandments.

Proverbs 8:17 I **love** those who **love** me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

And thus God **Sets His love** (to adhere to someone in love)

Deuteronomy 7:6-7 “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has **chosen you** to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7“**The Lord did not set His love** (Hashaq) on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

### **God’s Love for the world**

John 17:23 “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that **the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them** as You have loved Me.

Psalm 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Psalm 145:9 The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

Isaiah 34:1 Come near, **you nations**, to hear; And heed, you people! **Let the earth hear**, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it.

## Man's love for God is

1. a desire for/to have God's person (that is, to be with Him).

Exodus 33:12-16, especially 15-16 Then he said to Him, **"If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16" "For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."**

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed **the love** that God has for us. God is **love**, and **he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**

2. The resulting actions of love for His Word/Law, Temple, etc. relate to His person.

Deuteronomy 11:22 "For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to **love** the Lord your God, **to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—**

Psalms 116:1-2 **I love the Lord**, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.

Psalms 119:97 Oh, how **I love** Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Joshua 22:5 "But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, **to love** the Lord your God, **to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."**

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, **To love mercy**, And to walk humbly with your God?

1 John 2:5, But whoever **keeps His word**, truly **the love of God** is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

3. Love is **not a work** which we produce, but a gift (and the power resulting from God's gift)

Deuteronomy 30:6 "And the Lord your God **will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Deuteronomy 10:15-16 "The Lord delighted only in your fathers, **to love** them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16" "Therefore **circumcise the foreskin of your heart**, and be stiff-necked no longer.

Ezekiel 11:19-21 "Then I will give them **one heart**, and I will put a **new spirit** within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them **a heart of flesh**, 20**that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them**; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. 21" "But as for those **whose hearts** follow the desire for their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 36:25-28 "Then I will **sprinkle clean water on you**, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26" "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27" "I will put My Spirit within you **and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.** 28" "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Jeremiah 32:38-41 "They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39" "then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40" "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. 41" "Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul." (Also Jer 31:33)

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul**

**The demand “with all the heart” excludes all half-heartedness, all division of the heart in its love. The Heart is mentioned first, as the seat of the emotion generally and of love in particular; then follows the soul as the centre of personality in man, to depict the love as pervading the entire self-consciousness; and to this is added “with all the strength,” sc. of body and soul” (Keil & Delitzsch, Vol. 1, p.323)**

<sup>130</sup> Although it is somewhat possible to do civil works, that is, the outward works of the law, without Christ and the Holy Spirit, still **the impulses of the heart toward God**, belonging to the essence of the divine law, are impossible without the Holy Spirit; this is evident from what we have already said. <sup>131</sup> But our opponents are fine theologians! They look at the second table and political works; about the first table they care nothing, as though it were irrelevant, or at best they require only outward acts of worship. They utterly overlook that eternal law, **far beyond the senses and understanding of all creatures: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart”** (Deut. 6:5). (Ap IV 130)

<sup>25</sup> All this is full of pharisaical vanity. It is the height of wickedness to believe that they satisfy the Ten Commandments in such a way that there are merits left over, when these Commandments accuse all the saints, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart” (Deut. 6:5)**, and again, “You shall not covet” (Ex. 20:17). The prophet says (Ps. 116:11), “All men are liars”; that is, they do not think correctly about God, **they do not fear him enough, they do not believe God enough**. Therefore it is false for the monks to boast that the observance of a monastic life satisfies the Commandments and does more than the Commandments. (Ap XXVII 24-25)

### **Believers love God**

John 8:42, Jesus said to them, **“If God were your Father, you would love Me**, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, **“If anyone loves Me**, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

John 14:28 “You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ **If you loved Me**, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 16:27 “for the Father Himself loves you, because **you have loved Me**, and have believed that I came forth from God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

**We are not justified by love (either before—which is impossible—or after conversion). Because the love of the believer is imperfect.**

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.