

love those who are different, God loved those who were directly opposed to Him (Romans 5:6-8).

It is deep in that it existed before men were saved.

God's love did not begin when men started loving Him. Instead, it existed before anything or anyone did.

Despite a man's sinfulness, wickedness, or darkness, God still chose to love him or her.

It is deep in loving EVERY sinner, even the bad ones (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). God's love is so deep that it plunges deep into sin's proverbial ocean, pulling out the most vilest, evilest, and immoral sinner. Despite being dead, deciding to walk in darkness, and making their direction the lust of the flesh (Ephesians 2:1-5), God still loved them. Wicked lifestyles should not prohibit us from accepting the love of God. Phrases like, "How could God ever love me," "God would never love a wicked person like me," or "I've done too many things in my past for anyone to love me," do not have to be said because God loves all sinners. There is no country to far, no sin to deep, nor act too immoral that the blood of Christ cannot save. God loves you, yes you, sinner. Oh, how deep the love of God is!

The Love of God is HIGH

A teacher asked her little Bible class how high they thought the love of God reached. Some said as tall as their house, other said taller than the world's tallest building, while another said to the sun! Finally, one little boy said, "I think it reaches all the way to heaven." John 3:16 affirms this little boy's statement when it reads, "have everlasting life." God's love is so high that it leads to a home in heaven, for those willing to obey Him (Hebrews 5:9).

God is hospitable (Revelation 22:17). God's love is wide, long, and deep, so that He may express the height of His love. He invites people to come and enjoy the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7) if they have their robe on (cf. Matthew 22:11-13).

Heaven, the result of the love of God. Parents love to give gifts to their children. To see their faces on Christmas morning, birthdays, or graduation celebrations puts a smile on their faces. God's love prompts the gift of heaven and when His children get there, only joy will be found. Heaven is a wonderful place. Heaven will truly be wonderful.

Because of the love of God, anyone can go to heaven (John 14:2; Revelation 21:16-17) if they choose to love Him back (John 14:15).

To measure the love of God would require an eternal yard stick. There is no distance between the beginning and end because God's love is eternal. Charles Spurgeon would conclude very simply, "For breadth the love of Jesus is immensity, for length it is eternity, for depth it is immeasurability, and for height it is infinity." One day two sisters were plucking rose petals in their garden outside, thinking about the boys each one of them liked. They went through the common process, "he loves me, he loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not." Eventually, they each plucked the last petal and disappointingly, one of the sisters end with "he loves me not." The other one ended with "he loves me." Sitting inside watching them was their little sister who wanted to try it too. She went to the garden and started to pluck the rose petals saying, "he loves me, he loves me, he loves me." Hearing her "doing it wrong" the two older sisters instructed her little sister to say, "he loves me, he loves me not." The little sister responded with, "no I'm doing it right. You were talking about boys, but I was talking about Jesus."[7]

Endnotes

1These words were found written on the wall of an insane asylum.

2A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures of the New Testament* (A.T. Robertson), eSWORD.

3Biblical Illustrator, eSWORD.

4https://collinsvillecoc.org/sermon_Outlines/2017/201703/The%20Four%20Dimensions%20of%20God's%20Love.pdf

5Michael Hodgin, *1001 Humorous Illustrations For Public Speaking*, p. 214

6Idea from Jonna Burrow.

7https://n.b5z.net/i/u/6129689/f/2020_05_03_SERMON_LOVE_OF_GOD.pdf

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God's Geometry

Noah Olson

Geometry is a difficult subject. It is usually an academic discipline that deals with graphs, proofs, angles, and certain shapes. The word geometry means to measure the earth and students usually accomplish this task with rulers, compasses, protractors, and tape measures. Of more importance and of greater significance, is the search for the measure of the love of God. Have we ever attempted to measure the width, length, depth, and height of the love of God (Ephesians 3:17-18)? In God's geometry problem the question is "how much does God love the world?" The answer was given by Jesus: "that he gave his only begotten son" (John 3:16).

Our beloved songs capture the beautiful essence and divine attributes of God, especially love.

- "Come let us all unite to sin, God is love. Let heaven and earth their praises ring, God is love."
- "How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure. That He would give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure."
- "Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made. Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade. To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry, nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky." [1]

Some view God as ONLY a God of justice, anger, and punishment; but Scripture portrays Him also as a God of love. Love originates with God (1 John 4:19). John Wesley said, "Love is God's reigning attribute that sheds amiable glory upon all of his other perfections" and William Barclay stated, "probably the single greatest statement about God in the whole Bible (God is love-NO)...It is amazing how many doors that single statement unlocks and how many questions it answers." Let us measure the love of God by looking at God's geometry.

The Love of God is WIDE

John 3:16 says, "for God so loved the world." The world is the "whole human race." [2] Almost eight billion people live on this earth and every single one of them are loved by God. While the Calvinist likes to exclude many from the special love of God, Biblical truth says God loves all people. The love of God is not a narrow

stream[3], but a vast ocean ready to be drained by the cup of every individual. Every person falls under God's umbrella of love. There are five tests given below to show the far-reaching arm of His divine love:

- *The Nation's Test* (Revelation 5:9). God is not a tribunal or nationalistic God. He is the God of every nation.
- *The Race Test* (Galatians 3:28). Some Jews were racist, but God is not. God is the God of all flesh (Jeremiah 32:37); there are no walls (Ephesians 2:14-16); He loves all people (Acts 17:26).
- *The Gender Test* (Galatians 3:28). God does not withhold His love based off of gender. Male and female are both under His divine love and are equal in His sight.
- *The Social Status Test* (Galatians 3:28). It does not matter if one is employer or employee, he is still loved by God. The man who makes eight figures is no more loved by God than the man whose salary comes under the poverty line. Kings and peasants are equal in God's eye of love. Jesus taught to both the poor (Matthew 11:4-5) and the rich (Matthew 19:16-22).
- *The Time Test*. [4] (Acts 2:39; Hebrews 9:15). God's love is broad enough to cover every aspect of time: past, present, and future. God's love is everlasting (Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:38-39). It doesn't have bounds, nor does it run out. C.S. Lewis said, "Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."

Geography cannot confine it, race does not negate it, social class does not rank it, and time cannot age it. The love of God "shall forevermore endure."

The Love of God is LONG

The longest movie ever made was over 14 hours long. The longest personal name has 747 characters in it. Louis XIV of France reigned the longest of any monarch (72 years). Many go to great lengths to show love to another. How can we measure love? Santosh Kalwar said, "Love is not measured by WHO you love, love is measured by HOW you love." In Iowa, lived one couple who were farmers. The husband never told his wife that he loved her and because of that she felt unappreciated. Finally, she asked him, "why don't you ever tell me you

love me?" The husband responded "when we were married I told you that I loved you, and if I ever change my mind, I'll let you know." [5] God does not withhold claims of His love. Every page of His Scripture is filled with it. God's love is so long "that he gave his only begotten son." The love of God is expressed in the Father's giving and the Son's yielding. Three gerunds prove this thought.

Leaving (Philippians 2:6-8). Leaving home is hard, but how hard would it be to leave perfection and come to imperfection? Jesus emptied himself of heavenly bliss to save humanity by

- *A change in glory* (John 17:5).
- *Becoming a man and subjecting Himself to pain, hunger, thirst, temptation, and agony* (John 1:14; Hebrews 4:15).
- *Changing forever*. [6] Have we ever thought that when Jesus came to earth He would never be the same again?

The rich King became the poor Savior, so that we as priests might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Serving (Philippians 2:7). Service shows sacrifice (Matthew 20:28) and Jesus was the perfect example (John 13:15). Jesus left heaven to WORK by

- *Preaching* (Isaiah 61:1). Some think that Jesus could have traveled around 3,000 miles during His ministry.
- *Healing* (Isaiah 61:1; Acts 10:38). Doing this for the multitudes may have made Jesus tired.

The greatest evidence of sacrifice is a serving heart and serving hands.

Dying (Philippians 2:8). Humbling led to obeying and obeying led to dying. The love of God was ultimately expressed in Jesus' sacrifice (John 15:13). His cruel death show the LENGTH of the love of God. He was willing to die for the sheep (John 10:11, 15). The length of the love of God would demand the longest tape measure to even begin the quest of measurement.

The Love of God is DEEP.

Stuart Townhend would write, "How deep the Father's love for us?" How would you measure the depth of the love of God? John 3:16 says that God's Son was given so that men would not perish. God's love is so deep that even the worst sinners can be saved. While many do not