



Section 2: Concerning The Godhead (Cont.)

Question 16: Is God loving?

Answer 16: Yes, God is love.

Memory Verse: **1 John 4:16**

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Support Verses: **Romans 8:39**

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.

1 John 3:16

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:7-8

7 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.

Discussion Points:

1. Defining Love:

- Webster's 1828 Defines "love" as follows: Love is the affection of the heart that is expressed by kindness, benevolence, and charity and is excited by the beauty and worth of the object of affection.
- Love is also commonly defined as "benevolence and good will."
- The Greek word commonly used to describe this character trait and act of God is "agape" and is defined as, "brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence."
- The Hebrew word used to describe the love of God to man is "châshaq" which is, "to love, be attached to, long for."

2. Applying Love:

- To the person of God; He is not just a being that loves, but, rather, a being that is love.
- He is Love personified.
- That is, He demonstrates by nature the standard by which kindness, benevolence and charity are to be applied.
- With God being the standard of love, we see it applied as a sacrifice, or giving of all that is virtuous toward the its object of affection.



- Consider the implications in this definition...
- What could it be that is of any beauty and worth in us that would cause God to be kindly and charitably affectioned toward us?
- It is Him! It is Him in us.
- His image originally stamped in us, lost, and then His image restored by The Lord Jesus Christ in us.
- The very character of God, which is love, is nowhere demonstrated greater than in His special creation... Man!
- What a privilege! To be the object of the affection He who is Love.

3. His expectation for us:

- As one of His, and being a creature after His image and likeness, there is an expectation for us to reflect those very same character traits.
- We must love. Even when the object seems unloveable.
- We must remember that God does not love us because of our intrinsic value, but because of His personal investment (Himself) in us.
- In those situations where you find it difficult to love, ask yourself what you have invested in the object of affection that is worth loving?
- Love is a sacrifice of your virtue that is bestowed upon an object of your choice.
- We are His, and He is love, and therefore we must likewise be loving.

Notes:

Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs:

- "How Deep The Father's Love For Us" (Hymn - #106 - Rejoice Hymns)
- "O How He Loves You And Me" (Hymn - #103 - Rejoice Hymns)