
REFLECTION

UNDERSTANDING GODLY LOVE

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER HOPPER | 33 LIVE | 10.05.2011 | 7PM



WHO'S TO BLAME?

- IS KEEPING PEOPLE FROM DOING BAD THINGS LOVE?
- IS IT LOVING TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE ONE PERSON FOR THE WELLBEING OF ANOTHER?
 - WE ONLY LOVE THE VICTIM, WHICH MAKES OUR LOVE INFERIOR; GOD ALSO LOVES THE CRIMINAL.
 - GOD IS SO LOVING HE EVEN LOVES THE ACUSED. DO YOU? LOOK WITHIN: WHAT REFLECTION DO YOU SEE?

MAKING GOD HATEFUL

- IF WE WANT GOD TO STOP PEOPLE FROM DOING THINGS, THEN WE ARE ASKING HIM TO TAKE AWAY FREEWILL.
 - GOD WOULD HAVE TO HATE US TO TAKE AWAY OUR ABILITY TO CHOSE.
 - IF LOVE IS A CHOICE, REMOVING CHOICE IS HATE. IN ASKING GOD TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE EVERYONE'S ACTIONS AND MOTIVES, WE ARE ACTUALLY SUPERIMPOSING HATE ON GOD.

"Where was God when Hitler killed the Jews?" I replied, "Where was God when you had your affair and ruined your wife's and your children's lives?"

- YOU EITHER GOD IS NON-EXISTENT, OR HE HAS GIVEN MANKIND THE **ULTIMATE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS LOVE THROUGH NOT INTERFERING WITH THEIR GIFT OF FREE WILL.**

"Do you love me enough to let me go?"

JON.FOREMAN

"ENOUGH TO LET ME GO"

SWITCHFOOT: HELLO HURRICANE

■ IF GOD WANTED TO STOP ALL EVIL THINGS FROM HAPPENING, THE EASIEST THING FOR HIM TO DO WOULD BE TO DESTROY THE WHOLE WORLD STARTING WITH ME.

■ WE TEND TO REMOVE OURSELVES FROM THE EQUATION, BECAUSE IT'S MUCH EASIER TO LOOK AT OTHER PEOPLE'S SINS THAT IT IS TO LOOK AT OUR OWN.

"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."

JAMES 2:10

■ GOD SEES ALL SIN AS THE SAME.

SEEING LIKE GOD SEES

■ WHETHER YOU BUY INTO GOD OR NOT, ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND HIS PERSPECTIVE, IT ACTUALLY INCREASES YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS LOVE. **HE DOESN'T JUST WANT GOOD PEOPLE, HE WANTS ALL PEOPLE.**

■ BUT WHEN WE SEE GOD **NOT DESTROYING** US ON ACCOUNT OF OUR EVIL DECISIONS, IT'S EVIDENCE THAT HE STILL WANTS US TO WIN! TO SUCCEED! TO HAVE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO HEAR ABOUT HIS PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

■ GOD IS NOT TRYING TO KEEP BAD THINGS FROM HAPPENING, HE'S TRYING TO MAKE SURE YOU ENCOUNTER THE GREATEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN!

JUSTICE MUST BE SATISFIED

"In a world is full of evil, someone has to pay."

■ IN ORDER TO REDEEM MAN AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF ALL OUR EVIL DECISIONS, SOMEONE WITH NO ERROR IN THEIR LIFE HAD TO TAKE UPON THEMSELVES THE ENTIRE PENALTY FOR EVERYONE ELSE'S CORRUPTION.

■ GOD PLANNED TO EMBODY OUR PUNISHMENT SO WE COULD GO FREE.

■ [THE COURT ROOM; THE FATHER'S LOVE]

■ GOD IS NOT ON TRIAL IN THE EARTH TODAY; WE ARE ON TRIAL. WHAT ARE WE CHOOSING TO EMBRACE AND BELIEVE IN WITH OUR GIFT OF FREE WILL?

A LOVE THAT COVERS SIN

■ JESUS DID THE MOST LOVING THING HE COULD BY MAKING HIMSELF LIKE US, UTTERLY IMMERSING HIMSELF IN OUR CULTURE AND IDENTIFYING WITH EVERY STRUGGLE WE COULD EVER GO THROUGH.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**” 30This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’*

JOHN 1:29-30

■ WHILE WE’RE BUSY ACUSING THE OFFENDER, JESUS WAS TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO RESTORE THEM!

*He is the **propitiation*** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 JOHN 2:2

**Appeasement or satisfying factor. Propitiation is a two-part act that involves appeasing the wrath of an offended person and being reconciled to them.*

*And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the **Savior of the world.** 15Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

1 JOHN 4:14-16

TO THE CHRISTIAN

■ YOU ARE LIVING EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE; WATCH HOW YOU LIVE.

If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 JOHN 4:20-21

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. 3And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

PAUL
2 CORINTHIANS 3:2-3

"Dear Lord today, make me proof of prayer, a model 4 miracles, an example of excellence and a testimony of triumph!"

@jamalhbyrant
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CONCLUSION

■ WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE BEING MERCIFUL, ESPECIALLY TO THE CRIMINAL, YOU ARE NOT SEEING A "GOOD PERSON," YOU ARE SEEING GOD-CHARACTER EMANATING OUT OF THEM.

■ HOW ARE YOU TREATING OTHERS?

■ ARE YOU BIASED AGAINST LEADERS COMMITTING GENOCIDE?
MOTHER'S WHO'VE COMMITTED ABORTIONS? BULLIES IN SCHOOL?

■ HOW ARE YOU TREATING GOD?

■ ARE YOU FALSELY ACCUSING HIM OF THE WRONGS THAT MANKIND HAS CHOSEN TO COMMIT WITH THEIR FREEWILL?

■ ARE YOU REJECTING THE VERY PATH TO FREEDOM THAT HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE TO MAKE FOR YOU?

■ [GUY ON TOP OF A HOUSE IN A FLOOD]

FURTHER READING:

*Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

*2For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.*

*3He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*4Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*5But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.*

*6All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

*7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.*

*8By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?*

*9And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

*10Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*11Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.*

***12Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.***

ISAIAH 53