

# Thinking About God...

Many people have many different ideas about whether God exists, who He may be, and what He may be like. The Bible does not set out to “prove” the existence of God. It simply assumes that God does exist and is the supreme creator of all that exists. The Bible states that God is the pre-existent uncaused-cause of creation (Genesis 1:1ff). He is knowable and yet incomprehensible (Job 11:7-12; 36:26; Isaiah 40:18).

In Creation, in Jesus Christ, and in the Bible God reveals to us His nature (how God acts) and essence (who God is). The revelation of God’s nature and essence are called His attributes. Some of these attributes go beyond our ability as humans to understand (i.e. the attribute of “eternity” - that God is free from the limitations of time and exists in one indivisible present) Just thinking about these attributes causes our minds to spin. However, some of the attributes of God do have a correlation to our experiences as humankind. These are called God’s “communicable attributes”.

One such communicable attribute is **THE LOVE OF GOD**.

It is without question that there is very little real love in the world today. What is called “love” are often acts of selfishness in disguise. Even among Christians we must confess that our sin, pride, and personalities, often get in the way of our expressing pure love towards each other. Though we may desire unselfish perfect love, we fall short.

Consider, just for a moment, the love of God. No person can fully describe the infinitude of God’s love. Our minds cannot comprehend it. The most extensive ideas that we might think about God’s love are far removed from its true nature. The depth of God’s love is like an ocean which swells higher than all the mountains. Beyond this, it is not just that God is loving but that He is love itself. He is the source of love. At the very core of His nature and essence He is love. Whatever God does, He is always acting in love. Because He is love, God has committed Himself to the ultimate good of His creation (that includes us)!

We would have no clue that there even is something called “love” if God had not placed it within His creation. In fact, love is that attribute of God which motivates Him to reveal Himself to us. When we see God at work we begin to understand what love is and to see the example of how we are to love each other. The greatest demonstration of God’s love comes through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 3:16; John 4:7-11,16). In all of human history there is no greater example of self-surrendering perfect unselfish love.

It is hard to accept being loved as God loves us. We often feel unworthy or undeserving of such love. And yet, there it is. The love of God. God loves you.

John writes, “*Perfect love (God’s kind of love) casts out fear.*” Because God loves us we know that He will never abandon us, reject us, discipline us wrongfully, or do anything to us which is not motivated by pure love. Because God loves us we do not need to live in fear. But, we can live trusting Him. We need to be more occupied with His wondrous love for us. The better we are acquainted with His love - its character, fullness, blessedness - the more we will be drawn out in love towards each other and especially towards God.

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