

# God is love

*Is it possible that He could love me?*

## God is good

**Nobody would pretend that it is easy to understand some of the events that take place in the world.** Indeed, it is right to say that God deals very severely with sinful people and nations through happenings and events. Natural disasters and disturbing experiences all remind us we are mortal and that we must walk humbly before God. Yet, even when this is said, the message is true that God is good. The world that has been created speaks of a God who has such goodness at heart.

The Fall has severely affected the world and how it works. But there is still great beauty, intricacy and grandeur in the world with stunning wonders, delicate fragrances and awe-inspiring sounds. These all speak of the glory and goodness of God to us, if we have eyes and ears to comprehend it.

*Look up Romans 1 v.20:*

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What is more, this goodness is displayed to all. In spite of the famines and floods that affect the earth, God gives good gifts to all.

*Look up and write down the last part of Matthew 5 v.45:*

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All that is around us tells us that God is good.



## Understanding the love of God

**As with so many of our studies, there is much that can be said about the love of God.** His love is best understood in the light of the glorious being of God who is so much higher than we are and so different to us. His holiness is just one way to see how glorious He is – and how lowly and weak we are in comparison. He owes us nothing – and yet He loves this world and shows compassion and mercy.

*Look up Psalm 103 v.8 and write it down:*

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*Again in Psalm 103, find verses 13 & 14 and write down what it says:*

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Gifts of food and drink, families and friends, places to live and work – as well as a world teeming with variety and interest – all give ample testimony to His love. Also, prayers that He graciously answers all tell of His kindness, His active involvement, and His interest in our affairs on earth. So in countless ways God shows that He is willing to bless us, whether we acknowledge Him and thank Him, or not.

## Love in action

**Ultimately, the most important aspect of the love of God is seen in His willingness to send a Saviour to die for sinners.** We saw in the last study how His holy laws had been broken and how this meant dire consequences for sinners for all eternity. Through His Son Jesus Christ, a way is given to sinners to come to God. He cleanses them from their sins that are a barrier to their having friendship with God. The coming of Jesus Christ to earth as a man speaks volumes of His love toward mankind. For His love moved Him to live a hard life amidst sinners, who did not love Him or respect Him.

*Look up and write down in the space John 3 v.16:*

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When speaking about the love of God, John remarks, in his first letter, about how God’s love was seen in His offering to the world a Saviour for their sin.

*Look up and write down 1 John 4 vv.8-9:*

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It is a deep love that is a felt love on the part of God. It is not something that is superficial or fickle. His is a steady and constant love, which is not deterred in showing kindness and favour, despite the unworthiness of the people concerned.

Sinners are not owed a Saviour, nor do they have the right to one. But God decreed that sinners might have a Saviour, and that through Him they might be delivered from His wrath, and the consequences of their sins. Such consequences include a final judgement that would transport them irretrievably away to everlasting torment and misery. But through God’s love, He saves sinners from that judgement.

The change that takes place –when we come to realise our sinfulness and the vital importance to our own soul of Christ’s coming, His death and resurrection – is called, among other things, ‘being made alive’, or ‘regeneration’. All of it is attributed to His love.

*Look up and write down Ephesians 2 vv.4-5:*

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In fact, God’s love makes it possible for us to benefit from His Son’s death by His supplying the gift of repentance and faith. Our sinful hearts would never repent and believe of their own accord.

Without ‘regeneration’, which we call a work of grace, not one of us could ever see how much we need the forgiveness that comes from Jesus Christ. Nor would we, without His love, ever want Him sufficiently that we would be prepared to admit that we are sinners and plead with Him to save us. This ‘work of grace’ within us is the work of the Holy Spirit, as was mentioned in Chapter Four.

*Find and write down Ephesians 2 vv.8-9:*

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When a sinner through repentance comes to faith in His Son, God’s love is so much in evidence. The parable of the prodigal son likens this event to a rebellious and dissolute son returning humbly and repentantly to his father – and being greeted with a great banquet.

Read the parable in Luke 15 vv.11-32.

*See the reaction in heaven to a converted sinner in Luke 15 vv.10:*

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This tells us the importance that God attaches to the rescuing of a human soul. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather has evident delight in the receiving of another son or daughter into the kingdom of heaven. The joy is reverent, holy and unconfined. This is the response of a God who has a deep love for sinners – whom He delights to make His people – and who has enormous concern for their welfare.

The Lord Jesus Christ, while upon earth, showed again and again His personal concern for those who were alive at His coming. He knew that most were hardened against Him, and that few were destined to be among His people. His reaction to their unbelief tells us everything about the depths of the love He felt.

*Turn to Luke 19 vv.41-44. What single word shows us His reaction to the city of Jerusalem? Write it in the space:*



**Love that does not end**

**God’s love continues and will continue until the end of the age and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself returns to the earth.** Everyone who comes to Him and trusts in Him for salvation is assured that the end of their life will issue into happiness and joy.

*See the promise of Christ in John 6 v.39 and write it in the space:*

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*Write out the words of the Lord Jesus Christ from John 11 v.25 and the first part of verse 26:*

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Each one of His people – when they believe – receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, as we saw in Chapter Four.

*Write down the last part of Ephesians 1 v.13:*

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No one who is counted by God as being among His people is ever lost. Nevertheless they still face many difficult challenges in this life. Yet through the blessings of answered prayer, and the working of the Holy Spirit in the very depths of their being, Romans 8 v.28 becomes a wonderful reality.

*Look up Romans 8 v.28 and write it down:*

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### Questions to ask

Do I ever thank God for the many good gifts He gives?

Have I ever been struck by the love that made it possible for sinners to be saved?

Have I ever experienced that love of God through knowing that my own personal sin has been dealt with through the Lord's death on the cross?

### Something to read and consider

Read the following passages in the Bible:

John 10 vv.1-18

Ephesians 2