

## **SERMON: THE LOVE OF GOD**

JEREMIAH 31:3

ROMANS 5:8

### **Jeremiah 31:3**

The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

### **Romans 5:8**

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Introduction**

God is love. His essence is love. All of His attributes flow from His essence. God is merciful because He is love. God is kind because He is love. God is longsuffering because He is love. God is forgiving because He is Love. The problems and hardship of life can make us temporarily forget that no one can ever love us as God loves us. Our own disobedience can make us think God ceases to love us. Our text from Jeremiah is written in the context of Israel's running after idols. Despite their disobedience and lack of loyalty, God still declared His love for them. He goes even further and declares His love is everlasting.

### **Exposition**

#### **What are the Characteristics of God's Love?**

1. The Love of God is Unmerited.  
(Deuteronomy 7:7-8)
2. The Love of God is Eternal.  
(Jeremiah 31:3)
3. The Love of God is Universal.  
(John 3:16; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:4)
4. The Love of God is Unlimited.  
(Ephesians 2:4-5)
5. The Love of God Immutable.  
(James 1:17)

#### **What are the Results of God's Love?**

1. He Provides for Us.  
(Genesis 22: 7-8; Philippians 4:19)
2. Christ Died for Us.  
(Romans 5:7-9)
3. He Sent the Holy Spirit.  
(John 14:26; Acts 2:1-17)
4. He Is a Present Help in Times of Trouble.  
(Psalm 46:1)
5. He Gives Us Security.  
(Psalm 18:1-2; Psalm 124:1-8)

### **Closing Thoughts**

As we celebrate Holy Communion, let us remember this sacred ritual is a reminder of the depth of God's love. I am sure you have heard the common expression: "Love is blind." God's love is not blind; He sees more than any of us. He sees more and forgives more. We see less and forgive less. Because God is love, when we repent, He forgives all of our iniquities. Let me end by reciting a story I have told several times. It has been around for a while; no one knows who the author is. I have only heard it verbalized, so I decided to write it down. Two teenage girls were getting dressed for the prom. They were wondering if their dates, who were also their boyfriends, really loved them. So they tried a ritual that is part of our folklore. They went to the flower garden and picked blossoms. They methodically pulled petals and recited, "He loves me, he loves me not, he loves me, he loves me not." According to the ritual, the phrase that corresponds to the last petal pulled is the indication of the truth. One of the girls was elated because the last petal corresponded with, "He loves me." The other girl was disappointed, because her last petal corresponded with, "He loves me not." One of the girls' little sister was in the room and was watching as they dressed. She went to the flower garden and plucked a blossom. She came back to the room and started pulling petals. She repeated, "He loves me, he loves me, he loves me." Her big sister condescendingly said, "You are doing it wrong. It is he loves me, he loves me not." The little girl defiantly said, "I'm doing it right. You see you are talking about your boyfriend, but I'm talking about Jesus." Then she continued, "He loves me, He loves me, He loves me. I never have to wonder about His love!" The highest expression of God's love was the shed blood of Jesus on Calvary. Give God glory! Give God all the glory!

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