

“WHAT MANNER OF LOVE GOD HAS FOR US”

1 JOHN 3:1

INTRO: “**LOVE**” is a word we are all familiar with that we hear or use frequently in our conversations. But even though we are familiar with the word “**LOVE**,” we must recognize that there are different types of “**LOVE**”. For instance, the “**LOVE**” we have for our parents, our spouse, our dog, our cat, our home, our car, etc., all have different applications. Even the scripture speaks of different types of “**LOVE**”. There is **AGAPE = SACRIFICIAL LOVE**; **PHILEO = BROTHERLY LOVE**. Then there is another Greek word for “**LOVE**” that is not found in the Bible which is **EROS = PHYSICAL LOVE BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND A WIFE**. But the passage we have before us in 1 John 3:1 expresses God’s “**LOVE**” for us that is beyond comprehension. Yes, it is the Greek word **AGAPE, (SACRIFICIAL LOVE)**, but in the verse there is another qualifying word, which is the word “**MANNER**” that adds a greater dimension to God’s **LOVE FOR US**. So today we are going to study **“WHAT MANNER OF LOVE GOD HAS FOR US.” TRULY GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS AMAZING AND BEYOND OUR GREATEST COMPREHENSION** that we will focus on today.

I. THE MANNER OF GOD’S LOVE

“BEHOLD, WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HATH BESTOWED UPON US”

A. The Expression of the Text (Examine some words)

1. “**BEHOLD**” – Literally “**BEHOLD YOU.**” This is plural in the Greek and here John is calling upon **ALL CHRISTIANS** to **LOOK CLOSELY** at the particular kind of **LOVE** God has extended toward us. *This is a command for every Christian to focus on and study the LOVE OF GOD.*

2. “**WHAT MANNER**” – Literally “**WHAT COUNTRY.**” (The “**MANNER**” speaks of something foreign). A literal translation would read: “**WHAT FOREIGN KIND OF LOVE HAS THE FATHER BESTOWED UPON US?**” **THE LOVE OF GOD IS FOREIGN TO THE HUMAN RACE – IT IS NOT NATURAL NOR HUMAN!**

3. “**BESTOWED**” – Literally “**TO GIVE SOMETHING PERMANENTLY.**” God’s gift of **LOVE** to us is permanent, which means that **WE WHO ARE SAVED ARE THE PERMANENT OBJECTS OF GOD’S LOVE, WHICH RESULTS IN US BEING THE ETERNAL CHILDREN OF GOD!** (The word “**SONS**” is the Greek “**TEKNON**” which means “**BORN CHILDREN.**”)

NOTE: The purpose of God’s LOVE being bestowed upon us is not just that we are saved from sin but that we may be the “STYLED” children of God in name and character. Note Romans 8:14-17.

4. “**THE WORLD KNOWETH US NOT**” – Because we as believers are recipients of God’s **LOVE**, which is foreign to the world, the world does not understand us, even as it does not understand God.

NOTE: The CHILDREN OF GOD could just as well have come to earth from another strange planet so far as the world is concerned as we are strange to them.

B. The Examples of the Text (Showing the GREAT MANNER of God’s love)

1. God’s Love is Eternal – Jeremiah 31:1
2. God’s Love is Sacrificial – John 3:16
3. God’s Love is Evidential – Romans 5:8
4. God’s Love is Inseparable – Romans 8:39

II. THE MOTIVATION OF GOD’S LOVE

QUESTION: WHAT MOTIVATED GOD TO LOVE US SO MUCH?

A. That we might become His Children and be Blessed By Him

-Romans 8:17a – “**Heirs of God.**”

B. That we might become His Children and be Glorified With Him

-Romans 8:17b – “**Be Also Glorified Together.**”

C. That we might become His Children and Spend Eternity With Him

-John 14:1-3 – “**Where I am There ye may be Also.**”

III. THE MEANS OF GOD’S LOVE

GOD’S LOVE CAME TO US THROUGH HIS SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES

A. Through His Great Mercy – Ephesians 2:4

-God **DOES NOT** give us what we deserve through His **MERCY!**

B. Through His Great Grace – Ephesians 2:5

-God **DOES** give us what we DO NOT deserve through His **GRACE!**

IV. THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE

THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE IS UNIVERSAL

- A. God's Love was Expressed to All Sinners through Jesus Christ
-Romans 5:8
- B. God's Love was Extended to the Whole World Through Jesus Christ
-John 3:16

LESSON/APPLICATION

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO GOD'S MANNER OF LOVE FOR US?

- 1) We should RECEIVE HIS LOVE through Personal Salvation – John 3:16
 - 2) We should LOVE HIM – 1 John 4:19 (Cp. John 14:15)
 - 3) We should be MOTIVATED to Serve Him – 2 Corinthians 5:14
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