

## Chapter Two

### Love and God's Purpose for Man

*What single asset does God possess after Armageddon, that He did not possess before creation?*

God is love the scripture says. Love is not just a nice trait for God, but it is His very nature and character. It is His most important attribute of all His attributes. Love existed among the **Trinity** before the foundation of the world.

The **Fatherhood** of God is apparent throughout the scriptures. Fathers love their children, and most would give their life for their children. Because the scripture says so, and because we are made in His image, and we love our own children, we can be sure He loves His Children.

The overwhelming love of **Jesus the Son**, dieing on the cross for our sins, demonstrates His extreme love for us. He chose to die the excruciating torture and death to be with the redeemed forever; rather than not go through the torture, and be separated from the redeemed forever.

The **Holy Spirit** pours out the love of God into our hearts. The **whole Trinity Godhead** is all about loving relationship. That is the true message of Jesus. The true message of His teaching.

#### Love

Love can be defined as the concern for the good, and betterment, of another. That concern can take the form of devotion, admiration, warm attachment and many other descriptions.

God is love. This statement expresses the essence of the character of God. Yes, God

wants honor and praise for what He does and who He is. But what does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)? Nothing else! He wants fellowship with you and I. This idea expresses the point of all creation.

To understand what God wants from us and how we should think of Him, must be derived from the fundamental beginnings of God's revelation to us. These are given in early Genesis. How God made man reveals much about who man is, with respect to God, and what reasons God had to design man as He did.

I am saying that the essence of God's character; *love*, and *His central purpose for the creation*, frame his intended theology. Looking at these two factors give much insight into His intended plan. All other theology emanates from those two factors.

#### Types of Love

The New Testament outlines three forms of love.

##### Agape Love

"Agape" love (reference type "A") is that type which originates from the attributes within the lover, the one who loves. The primary motivation is the character of God. The one doing the loving has some level of the character of God within. Feelings may be associated with this type, but they are not the primary motivation.

An example may be: devotion; why Mother Teresa tended to the poor and sick in India for much of her lifetime.

### **Phileo Love**

“Phileo” love (reference type “P”) is that type which is given by the lover but whose reasons for loving are the attributes which reside in the one who is loved. I show love to the one loved because she is pretty, funny, likes me, etc. This kind of love may be felt but primarily, it is experienced.

This kind of love is rather temporary. Because if the object of love stops being pretty, pleasant, funny or whatever the lover appreciates, the lover stops appreciating. Because the reason for appreciating is gone.

When two people love each other in only this way, this kind of love is not sustainable over time. It becomes a downward spiral of diminishing love returns. Eventually, this kind of love disappears if not built up by agape love.

The Natural Man loves in this way. When two people get married with wonderful hopes of being happy ever after. It doesn’t work out, and many divorce because “love” is no longer present. What happened? Not enough love (A), selflessness, and too much love (P), which eventually degenerated.

One of the benefits of agape love is that it produces Phileo love. When the lover (A) does something from his heart, because of his own character, not because of the object, the object receives the love. Receiving the love (A) from the lover causes love (P) to be experienced in the one receiving. Which means the recipient attributes the love (A) received to the other person, the lover. Of course, this is the definition of phileo love.

For example, If my wife because of her godly character, loves (A) me by fixing a wonderful candlelight dinner, that love causes me to want to love (P) her back. Maybe I’ll fix and hang the broken picture. She did something for me out of her godly character, but I want to do something for her because she did something for me. My response has nothing to do with her

love (A) in this case. Her love comes across to me as love (P) attributed to her person. This is how agape love in her, produces phileo love in me. And, her love (A), I may perceive as love (P), which does not do her character justice.

### **Eros Love**

“Eros” love (reference type “E”) is motivated by feelings of warm attachment which might be experienced between young people “in love.” These feelings are physiological in nature. The feelings present themselves to the lover, and go away from the lover, as the situation changes from hour to hour. This love usually is temporary and unstable, but may be supplemented by attributes seen in ones “better half;” phileo love.

### **The Nature of Love**

The nature of love is that it is intangible. It is a state of mind. It must be voluntarily given. It cannot be extracted. Even God Himself cannot extract love if it is not already present to be given.

Love has the component of creativity to it. In the desire to please the recipient, one uses all ones resources for the betterment of the one loved. This includes creativity.

If love (any type) is not present neither will creativity, good attitude, desire to please, feeling of worth for the object, or desire for the betterment of the object be present. If some level of love is not present, then indifference or some level of hate will be present. Because indifference or hate *is* present, if love is not present, then if something is given, it will be indifference or hate, not love. The presence of love, indifference, or hate is mutually exclusive; only one at a time can be in someone’s consciousness. This is why love can only be given if it is present. If it is not present in the heart, something else is there.

### **God Loves Man**

You have heard that God is love (A). The very character of God suggests our relationship to Him. God loves with the type of love (A) which

comes from His perfect character. He embodies all the fruit of the Spirit: love (A), joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. This is not to say that God doesn't love (P or E) sometimes.

“For God so loved (A) the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever should believe on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” This means God loved us so very, very much that He was willing to sacrifice His Son! Could you sacrifice a son? I can't say for sure I would. But Abraham did. And God the Father did for me.

Jesus died on the cross to gain salvation for us. Part of the testimony of love that the cross presents is this: He was willing to die on the cross to secure life *with us* for eternity; rather than, not endure the cross and live *without us* for eternity. That is love (A) with perhaps some love (P) because of the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2) when we are together.

God loving (A) me makes sense because I know I want to be loved (A, P, E). It feels good to be appreciated for what I have done. I want my wife to be proud of me. I feel loved (P) when she gives me a big hug and a kiss only because she feels like it. I enjoy seeing her face light up with pleasure when I do something for her that she can't do easily for herself. And, just as we enjoy appreciation, so does God.

He deserves appreciation for who He is, what He has done, what He is doing now, and what He will do in the future.

I love (P) Him because He is good; as opposed to evil. He is good in every way, and there is no shadow or grey areas in His character. I can not love (A) to that standard, but I respect that He can. However, in Gal.5:22, it says that the fruit of the Spirit is love (A), joy, peace, patience, etc. This means that if I cooperate, the Holy Spirit will provide love (A) and the other fruit.

God's love (A) for me is not based on who I am (Philo). It is based on who He is; His perfect character.

Because God has perfect character and infinite knowledge, I can feel safe. I feel safe

because I know He will not violate any aspect of His perfect character. Therefore, He will always deal with me in love (A) and fairness. I may act like a spoiled child but He will always correct me in love (A), with mercy and grace.

God loves (A) me and wants to have a personal relationship with me, and with all who want to have a relationship with Him. God wants us to love (P) Him but He wants us to love (A) Him also, because agape love is permanent. God wants us to love (A) Him forever.

### **Man Loving God**

God is sovereign over the creation and therefore, sovereign over us. Each person has an opinion of God. Man's opinion of sovereigns, or powers greater than himself, depend on how the greater power has treated the underling.

An individual's opinion of God, or any sovereign, could be anywhere along the spectrum between hating Him, to indifference, to Loving Him dearly. Whatever the opinion, it belongs to the individual who formed it. It is what it is. His opinion is a product of his influences and thinking processes. Man's thinking processes control his action. God can control man's action as he would a robot but not his love (P) as in appreciation. It has to be given, as I said earlier.

In a person just becoming acquainted with God, loving (P) God involves acts of giving (obedience, appreciation, honor, worship) as opposed to not giving them. We see in the Bible that loving (A, P) Him means to obey.<sup>1</sup>

In other places, we see that loving (A, P) Him is to walk in all His ways (Duet. 19:9). In still other places love (A) of God means to love (A) others (Eph. 5:2). Serving God in faith is loving (A) Him (I Thess. 1:3).

When God checks to see if a man loves (A, P) Him, He looks into the man's heart, He is jealous if obedience or worship is given to another god that should be given to the one True and Living God (Ex. 34:14).

The aspects of love (A, P), as defined

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1. Duet. 7: 9, 30:20; I John 5:3

above, imply loyalty to Him rather than any other god. This means that at least a partial definition of love (A, P), from His point of view, involves choosing *Him* over other gods (Ex. 20:3).

Loving (A, P) Him is more than that, it is involving yourself for His betterment. It is preparing yourself to think and act like Him.

As a loving (A) father, is there anything more your kids can do for you than do as you ask? If they would just do that, wouldn't you feel they loved (P) you? If they go further and say, "Dad, I think you're the greatest!" Would you think they loved (P) you then? And if you are a superdad, maybe your son might say, "Dad, I want to be just like you when I grow up." How much more loving (P) can a child be? If the child now goes on to become like Dad, the love (P) may become love (A).

Similarly, there is no higher compliment that we can pay our God than wanting to like Him. This is not wanting to be like Him, like Satan. Satan wants to be like God in the sense of possessing His powers and sovereignty. We want to be like God in the sense of copying His character, some of His knowledge, and enjoying Him, His world, and His future.

The bottom line is God wants us to love (A) Him, and if we get to know Him, we will see that He is good. We also see the evil of men, including our own sins. The Holy Spirit showing the contrast, causes us to start to appreciate and eventually love (P) Him. If we continue to love (P) Him, He will develop love (A) in us over time. That is what Jesus was trying to instill into His Disciples. See John 21:15-17.

15) "So when they finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love (A) me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes Lord; You know that I love (P) you.' He said to him, 'Tend my lambs.'

16) "He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love (P) me?' He said to Him, 'Yes Lord, You know that I love (P) You.' He said to him, 'Shepherd My sheep.'

17) "He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love (P) me?' Peter was grieved

because He said to him a third time, 'Do you love (P) me.' And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (P) You.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend My sheep.'" - John 21:15-17

(Speaking of verse 15) This interchange suggests Jesus was asking if Peter loved Jesus with the kind of love which emanates from Peter's godly character. His answer implies, no, he loved Jesus with the kind of love (P) which emanates from the object of his love, Jesus. The inference is that Peter did not have the character development to love in the way God loves (A).

(Speaking of verse 16) Jesus repeats the question asking if Peter loves Jesus because of qualities in Jesus. Peter answers yes I do. Jesus says, Shepherd My sheep.

(Speaking of verse 17) Jesus repeats the question a second time. Apparently, Jesus wanted to be sure what kind of love Peter had for Him.

In English, these verses don't seem very important. But when you add the Greek meanings it takes on much more significance. Jesus was checking to see if Peter had grown from loving Jesus, because of the attributes of Jesus, or whether Peter loved Jesus because of the attributes within himself. This transition is monumental because Jesus wants all His disciples to love (A) Him forever with a love (A) which will last forever.

## God's Purpose for Man

Since we are made in God's image and likeness, and we have reasons and purpose for what we do, it makes sense that God has reasons and purpose for what He does; especially for such a tremendous project as the universe and all life (i.e., the creation). It is not possible that God would give man some attribute like the ability to reason and have purpose without Himself already possessing those attributes.

Purpose and reasons are similar. I have reasons for doing things, which lead to fulfilling some purpose. I buy raw wood which I cut, nail, sand and stain to fashion into a mantle

which I install over my fireplace. The reason I do those activities is to make the mantle. Making the mantle fulfills the sub-purpose of decoration for my house. But my real purpose for decorating is my *desire* for a nice looking, comfortable home.

It must be the same way with God. He made us to fulfill a desire for a people who would love Him. But getting people to love Him is a complicated process for which this explanation is just the beginning.

He made the universe as a source of wonderment for us and a context in which to house the solar system including Earth. The Earth is beautiful, and is a context to house the firmament. The firmament shows God's handiwork and His vast creative genius. All this God called "good" but His crowning achievement was "man" which He called "very good" (Gen.1:31).

God calling man "very good" makes mankind special in His mind compared to the rest of the creation. Why is mankind special? It is because men are the only creatures with which God could have a personal relationship. The whole Bible is about the relationship between God and man.

Since the Bible is about relationship, that means God must have made man with, at least, the *potential* to have relationship with Him. And, if so, what would that potential involve and look like? I will get to the answer to that in the following chapters. For now, suffice it to say I will show how man has the *potential* to love God.

In the search for a central purpose for creation, how can we go about finding one if there is one? Part of the answer can be found in the question: what does God get from the creation project that He did not possess before the creation project started? Before the Creation, the angels existed with God. Then, He created the Earth and Mankind. Several thousand years of human history have now elapsed, and people can look forward to judgement. Some time, says the Apostle Peter, the Earth will burn until it is consumed (II Peter 3:10). What benefit did God

get from the Creation? What is the one thing which God possesses *after* Armageddon that He did not possess *before* the Creation existed?

### *People who love Him!*

If that's all He gets out of the Creation, it must be His highest objective. Isn't that our highest objective too? We want to be loved by others.

We, and certainly God, are not naive enough to believe that He expected *all* people to love Him. The fact that we see only a few people who love Him, and many people who don't love Him, in our own lifetime, probably is typical of all of man's history. Since He knows everything; thus, He must have known it would only be a few, a remnant, who would love Him.

Let's look, for a moment at all the multitudes of people who will go to Hell. They are people who don't want a relationship with God for whatever reason. God will put them away from Himself in a place where they can be together with others similar to themselves. This means after judgement, God treats people who don't love Him; much differently than those who *do* love Him. The implication is that He *doesn't* want to deal with them anymore. The implication is also that people *who do love Him* are much more valuable to Him than we realize.

What we have so far is: (1) God loves man; (2) God wants man to love Him; (3) Man was made with the potential to love God; because, men love various people in their lives already; (4) There are men who love God living now; I am one of them. Perhaps you are too; (5) the only asset which God gets out of the creation history is a people who will love Him forever.

### **The Central Purpose for the Creation**

If we can accept that: (1) God loves man; (2) and man loving God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength is what God wants most from us; (3) Man was made with the potential to love God because men love various people in their lives already; (4) and then after Armageddon, the only asset that God gets out of the creation

history is a people who love Him forever; leads to: ***Before the foundation of the world, God desired a people who He could love, and who would love Him forever.***

If this Central Purpose is indeed what God wants to fulfill through the creation, how could He implement a plan which would accomplish that purpose? Since the scripture says, (II Peter 1:3) “. . . that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, . . . .”, and since we can see and understand the physical world around us, I believe between the two, we can discern the genius of God. Why He made people like He did. We will start to look at that in Chapter Three.

### **Evidence for the Central Purpose**

The evidence for believing that God desires a people who He will love and who will love Him forever lies in several areas of discussion; the person of God, the character of God, the will of God, distinguished godly opinion, and what assets God gets, as a result of the creation, after judgement.

#### **The Person of God**

God is love (A). - I John 4:8, 16

“. . . the love (A) of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” - Rom. 5:5

“But God demonstrates His own love (A) toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” - Rom. 5:8

“And because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” - Gal. 4:6

(Jesus speaking to the Father) “. . . I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love (A) them, even as Thou didst love (A) Me. - John 17:23

#### **Pre-creation Love within the Trinity**

(Jesus speaking to the Father) “. . . for Thou didst love (A) Me before the foundation of the world.” - John 17:24

#### **The Character of God**

God keeps His Covenant of lovingkindness with those who love (A) Him. - Duet.7:9, Dan. 9:4

“For God so loved (A) the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

“We love (A), because He first loved (A) us.” - I John 4:19

Love (A) of God given to us - Romans 5:5

#### **The Will of God**

God wants fellowship with man - Gen. 3:8

God wants a people for His own - II Sam. 7:23

“But know that the Lord has set apart the godly man for Himself.” - Psalm 4:3

Man commanded to love (A) God - Duet. 6:5

Duet.10:12-13,

Duet. 11:13

Luke 10:27

#### **God’s Foremost Commandment**

36) “‘Teacher which is the great commandment in the Law?’ ”

37) “and He said to him, ‘You shall love (A) the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

38) “‘This is the great and foremost commandment.’ “ - Matt.22:36-38

Repeat of foremost commandment - Mark 12:29-30,

#### **Right Relationship Between God and Man**

“And we have come to know and have believed the love (A) which God has for us. God is love (A), and the one who abides in love (A) abides in God, and God abides in him.” - I John 4:16

that God gets out of the creation project.

This is not trivial, its huge! Maybe billions of people are involved.

### **God has purpose for His Activities**

“... And let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come to pass, that we may know it.” - Isaiah 5:19

“And the land of Judah will become a terror to Egypt; everyone to whom it is mentioned will be in dread of it, because of the purpose of the Lord of hosts which He is purposing against them.” - Isaiah 19:17

### **Purpose for Christ Dieing**

Salvation of Believers - John 3:16; Romans 5:8-10

### **Eminent Godly Opinion**

Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer has this to say:

‘When someone asks me the Christian answer to this question of purpose, the reason for man’s existence, I would always take them to the first commandment of Christ. In passing, let us note that there is no reason to think that the first commandment: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength” (He footnotes Mark 12:30; Duet. 6:5) is merely a first command uttered by Jesus. We know it is not so because He quoted it from the last book of Moses, the book of Dueteronomy. But we can say something more. Surely it is the first commandment because it is the one that expresses the purpose of Man and, individually, my purpose.’  
(The God who is There, p. 146).

Since this is His foremost commandment, it follows that it is His highest objective for man.

### **God’s Single Net Asset from the Creation**

The doctrine of salvation says God will take a people who love Him to Heaven. As far as I can see, people who love Him is the only asset

