

Outline:

Title: God's Affectionate Love

1. The History of His Love - progressive and unchanging
2. The Definitive Nature of His Love - what it is at its core
3. Our Right Response to His Love

## 1. The History of His love - unchanging and progressive (at the same time)

### a. He chose a particular people in love in order to bless all people

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Literally means "in you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves - how? in you - in Abram - means in the same manner - BY FAITH!"**

**ABRAM OPENED THE DOOR - PICKED YES - CHOSEN YES - FOR A BIGGER GOOD!**

**God does choose some to be messengers of the**

He did the same thing in the NT - the disciples were chosen so we could hear and be included in the chosen group by faith like Abraham - Paul was chosen - set apart as an Apostle to the Gentiles...

### b. He chose a people in love in order to make them holy in that love

Exodus 20:5-6 - warnings are included in love - we do it all the time and call it love!  
Why to make them a particular people - set apart Leviticus 11:44 be holy for I am holy

This is not sloppy agape - but a love that is pure in essence.

That has not changed -

Hebrews 12:14 "strive for peace with everyone and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord"

### C. He loved a people - a love without end and boundless through faith

TO THOUSANDS OF GENERATIONS - LITERALLY - all who love me & keep my commandments?

unchanging? Jesus said - "if you love me you will keep my commandments"  
abide in my love = abide in my Word

1. No bounds to His love to those who love Him - to those faithful to His Word

a. **Psalm 86:15** But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Psalm 103:8** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

2. His boundless love allows for stumbles

**Nehemiah 9:17** They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

**2 Chronicles 30:9** For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your children will find

compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him."

Song - the steadfast love of the Lord never ends....

unchanging - but how is this progressive?

How can both be true?

History of the Bible shows the unchanging nature of God's love -

Even though now - Israel as a whole has refused Jesus Christ -

There will be a day - where they as a nation will hear the Gospel again...

Why because God loves them as a whole and desires them to be saved...\

Why because of the unchanging nature of His love- it is steadfast....unchanging.

## 2. In the NT - the truth of God's Love is progressively is opened to us in Jesus Christ

### a. a definitive statement in 1 John 4:8 - God is Love

God is Love

not He is about love - or he is nice or lovely or he wants to go out with you.

God is Love - and those who love are those who do not love -do not know God!

That is progressive truth...

Progressive revelation - an unfolding of God's heart...because we know exactly how this love was revealed to us.

In the person and work of Jesus Christ.

We could talk about this one subject forever - and we will.

It will be the talk of heaven. The streets will be great - the mansions many - but the love of God will be the talk of heaven -

1 John is about loving God and loving one another.

But how do we love one another?

Is the Bible clear on that point?

Or is it a free for all.

No it is very specific.

The seeds of it are in the historical books of the Bible.

Remember Abram - the Father of the Nation - His name was changed to Abraham - Father of Many Nations.

We say - good, great - Many Nations - including us - right!

But Father of...a familial relationship.

That is the seed

Now for the progressive revelation....

a. God is Love - definitive statement about God's Nature  
The point is - we better know backwards and forwards what this means!!!!!!!  
If we don't love in a godly manner - our soul is in eternal peril.

**b. God's Love is Affectionate in Nature**

Romans 12:9-10 Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

KJV <sup>10</sup> Be kindly affectioned one to another ||with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;  
First phrase "love one another" (KJV "kindly affectioned")  
philo-storgos - cherishing one's family - being fond of natural relatives

Second phrase "brotherly affection" - even stronger -  
**φιλαδελφία**

phil - a - delphia

phials - friend - actively fond of - love by association- through familiarity

a - connector

delphi - delfus- out of the same womb literally

Wait: I thought you said God's love is Affectionate in Nature - this is talking about us?  
I see where you are going - we are brothers in the CHURCH!!!!  
Yes...but there's more!!!!

Question: If God commands us to love in a brotherly way - with affection for one another...  
Would He ask something of us that He has not done.

Be holy for I am holy...  
Maybe this is a one time thing in Romans 12...NO!!!!

1 Pe 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly  
love love one another earnestly from a pure heart  
Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue

**c. God Models Brotherly Love in the Second Person of the Trinity - Jesus Christ**

1 Th 4:9 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you for you  
yourselves have been taught by God to love one another

Question: How were they taught by God?

Progressive Revelation: Jesus Christ

**1. God Models it By modeling it His Son**

John 3:35  
John 5:20  
John 5:42  
John 8:42

## **2. Jesus Models it By calling us and Making us His brothers**

Jesus calls us adelphoi in Matthew 25:40

Jesus called the disciples brothers Matt. 28:10

Jesus called them brothers in John 20:17...don't cling to me...tell my brothers

In order that he might be the firstborn of many brothers Romans 8:29

'For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.' Matt. 12:20

The Son of God - loves you kindly, affectionate as a brother.

Affectionate being translated - brotherly love -

Hey - why do you still love them...because we are family.

This is so ingrained in our psyche - you can't even get it out with abuse.

Cops - go to domestic violence situations - the last thing they will do is get in between the abuser and the abused - because the abused one - will probably turn around and show honor to the relationship.

How much the more should we be ready to love all who name the name of Christ.

God knows their hearts- if they name Christ as Savior and Lord - and are striving to obey - as weak and stumbling as they may be - our job is to be kindly affectionate to them....

Because that is how Christ relates to us.

If God was patient and had love for Israel that spans thousands of years of rebellion can't we be kindly affectionate towards one another - knowing that Christ is that patient and loving and kind with us??????

### **Adoption - The Mark of Affectionate Love -**

Ephesians 1:3-4 - Adoption - υιοθεσία hue - thesia - "*the placing of a son*"

Ephesians 1:13-14 - Through Faith - an Inheritance

God Models Affectionate Love in and through Jesus Christ - by adopting us

So Jesus can rightly call us brothers...

God calls us brothers - thinks kindly of us. Is patient towards us.

We are family.

### **d. That is a drawing love - not an excuse making love. It drives towards holiness.**

**Ephesians 4:1** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

urge - parakaleo - come alongside - what the HOLY SPIRIT... and beg you...

the love of God is the greatest motivating power in the universe!

In Christ it is fully revealed...to be brothers in Unity!!!

### **Psalm 133**

**1** Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!

**2** It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!

**3** It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,  
life forevermore.

**The Whole family could smell this...so strong would the odor have been - this smell of brotherhood! Nothing can imitate it so let's dive in to the affectionate love of God - abide in His love - and then let it unify us as we love one another - all the while adorning the Gospel of God - and drawing others to the Savior!**