

God Does NOT Love The World The Way Most Christians Were Taught

Intro: God loves you, but not the way most people think. God loves the world, but not the way most people think. Not everyone is a child of God just because they're image bearers.

If I asked you, does God love the world? You'd say yes. But, what if I said you're half right?

[Episode #1 - We Are Beloved](#)

[Episode #2 - Living As Beloved](#)

[Episode #3 - The Love of God in Scripture](#)

[Episode #4 - Why and How God Loves His Children Differently Than The World](#)

We Are Beloved - One deeply, divinely loved by God. Esteemed, favored, chosen, dear one. One who has a personal, intimate experience of God's love for them and is in the love of God

God loves the world in THIS way: Sustaining Life Allowing For Them To Seek Him

*Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For **he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.***

*Acts 16:26-27 - And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, **that they should seek God**, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.*

God loves the world in THIS way: Makes Provision For Salvation By Giving His Life

John 3:16 -17 - "For God so loved the world, that **he gave his only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Jonah 4:11 - And **should not I pity Nineveh**, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Matthew 9:36 - When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion for them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 23:37 - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How **often would I have gathered your children** together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

God loves the world in THIS way: Desires Salvation. Steers People Away From Death

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing that any should perish**, but that all should reach repentance.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Ezekiel 33:11 - Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 18:32 - For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

Titus 2:11 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

1 John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

Romans 5:8 - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God loving is preferring them/distinguishing them from wicked:

Malachi 1:2-3 - **I have loved you**," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet **I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated**. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."

Romans 9:13 - As it is written, "**Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.**"

Hosea 9:15 - Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there **I began to hate them**. Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. **I will love them no more**; all their princes are rebels.

Psalms 11:5 - The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul **hates the wicked** and the one who loves violence.

Proverbs 15:9 - The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but **he loves him who pursues righteousness.**

Psalms 5:5-7 - The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

Jonah 2:8 - Those who pay regard to vain idols **forsake their hope of steadfast love.**

Exodus 34:6-7 - The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Revelation 3:9 - Behold, I will make those of the **synagogue of Satan** who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and **they will learn that I have loved you.**

God loving His children means choosing them to be recipients of His COVENANT LOVE as we see in: Psalm 47:4, 78:68, 146:8. 1 Thessalonians 1:4

God has STEADFAST love for those who follow Him: Covenant Love

Exodus 20:6 - but showing steadfast love **to thousands of those who love me** and keep my commandments.

1 Kings 3:6 - And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, **because he walked before you in faithfulness**, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day.

2 Samuel 7:14-16 - I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but **my steadfast love** will not depart from him, **as I took it from Saul**, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

1 Kings 8:22-24 - Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing

steadfast love to your servants **who walk before you with all their heart**; you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

Nehemiah 1:5 - And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who **keeps covenant and steadfast love** with those who **love him and keep his commandments**,

Psalm 25:10 - All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, **for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies**.

Psalm 36:10 - Oh, continue your steadfast love **to those who know you**, and your **righteousness** to the upright of heart!

Daniel 9:4 - I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love **with those who love him and keep his commandments**,

God treats His children differently in THIS way: Security and Salvation

Psalm 91:14-16 - **Because he holds fast to me in love**, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

God treats His children differently in THIS way: Forgiveness

Psalm 103:11-13 - For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

God treats His children differently in THIS way: Preservation From Destruction

Psalm 145:20 - The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

God treats His children differently in THIS way: Righteousness Imputed

Psalm 103:17-18 - But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and **his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant** and remember to do his commandments.

God treats His children differently in THIS way: Indwelling Spirit

John 14:23-24 - Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, **and my Father will love him**, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

Romans 5:5 - and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts **through the Holy Spirit who has been given** to us.

Small Group Questions

1. What are some of the biggest takeaways from today's message for you?
2. How does God practically love His children (us) differently than He does the world?
3. In what ways do you better understand what it means that God loves the world? What are some misunderstandings/misconceptions that you previously had about God's love?
4. How does our perception of God's love, practically affect the way that we evangelize?
5. In what ways can you partner with God in the world to extend His love to hurting people?
6. What does it mean that God "hates" evildoers? And how do we balance this with God's love for the world?