

Romans # 127

“The Love of Christ” Part 2

*Romans 8:35-37*

**There are two ways to learn anything:**

**1. By experience, the hard way, a.k.a. *live and learn***

**2. By knowledge, the easy way, a.k.a. *learn and live***

Our objective is to learn the Word of God to live the spiritual life and avoid living under divine discipline, learning by punishment.

**God knew billions of years ago about our sins and failures but His knowledge of them did not cancel His love for us.**

Our God has infinite energy and power with which to love as He tells us in Scripture.

*God’s love does not improve or decline, it always remains the same whether it has an object or not.*

**Since God is love, always has been love and always will be perfect virtue-love, He does not fall in love nor can His love be compromised, corrupted or bribed by good deeds or any human experience.**

God’s love is never frustrated or disappointed because it existed before there were any creatures to love.

*God’s love exists with or without an object, since it is always a part of His perfect essence.*

Divine love is never sustained by human attraction, human intimacy, human merit or human worthiness. And God’s love exists in spite of the object.

Neither human good, morality, self-righteousness nor any system of human merit is the basis for God extending His love to mankind.

**We must never attempt to superimpose our own personal views and values on the character of God; we do not superimpose on God; God’s Word superimposes on us.**

Love in the spiritual life is patterned after God’s love, not after human love.

*God is perfect and His personal love can only be directed toward perfect righteousness, so the object of God’s infinite, eternal, unchangeable personal love must always be absolute perfect divine righteousness.*

Personal love demands integrity on the part of the subject.

**Even though we’re all flawed with sin natures, God provided wonderful biblical truths which develop the virtue of personal love for God in us so that we no longer feel threatened by others’ attitudes toward us.**

Divine impersonal love emphasizes the virtue of the subject placing all merit on the subject: God, who can love spiritually dead mankind on the basis of His own perfect character and divine self-esteem.

*Part of man’s spiritual death means he cannot be the object of God’s personal love.*

**God's impersonal love depends on who and what He is, never on who or what mankind is.**

God's impersonal love is the pattern for the believer's impersonal love, the problem-solver that solves all interaction problems with people.

*Impersonal love is commanded to the believer in the plan of God but it's impossible to accomplish with personal love because human personal love is without virtue and so, impersonal love becomes the basis for capacity for genuine love happiness.*

Since God is perfect holiness, integrity and virtue,  
His love is never inconsistent or contradictory  
to His eternal justice.

**Our Lord's impersonal love was demonstrated by His perfect motivation and perfect integrity in going to the cross, based on His perfect personal love for God the Father.**

Jesus Christ did not feel threatened in obeying His Father and as a result, His impersonal love functioned perfectly toward all who mistreated, maligned, hated and despised Him and toward all of us for whom He was judged and He also did not feel threatened in His deity because He always had perfect spiritual self-esteem.

*Impersonal love emphasizes our virtue, not the antagonism or terrible attitude of any object and with it, we can truly love the entire human race because we never feel threatened by anyone.*

**An anthropopathism uses language of accommodation and human frame of reference to describe God's policies in terms of man's characteristics.**

God loved Jacob in the sense of continuing the new racial species of Israel through Jacob the younger rather than through Esau the elder.

**TAKE AWAYS:**

*God's love always depends on who and what God is, never on who and what mankind is. God's love exists with or without an object, since God's love existed eternally unchangeable with full capacity.*

God's love is never maintained by the attractiveness or worthiness of an object, nor does it depend on the merit, works, sacrifices, flattery or legalism of human beings.

**Matthew 26:39 is Jesus Christ's virtue-love expressed and we are commanded to have virtue love as He did and our love can never be divorced from the plan of God because human love cannot have virtue outside God's plan and love without virtue is not love at all.**

God's love is His motivation for blessing us and it becomes our motivation when we learn to love Him through His Word.

*God's perfect eternal love for Self; divine self-esteem, becomes the pattern for our spiritual self-esteem and God's perfect eternal love for the other persons of the Godhead; His personal love toward divine righteousness, is the pattern for His personal love toward us as believers and God's perfect eternal love for all spiritually dead mankind, is the pattern for the believer's impersonal love for all during the Church Age.*

