

A God Who Cares – A God of Love

1 John 4:7-19

¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.'

The Bible says, "God is love," meaning love is God's essence. God does not only "possess" love or "will" love, but rather God loves. Period.

We will explore the presentation, display and transformational change of God's love.

How God's Love Is Presented

It is not about us loving God. It is about a God who knew who and what he created. A God who clearly understood that God had given us a choice whether to love him back or not and regardless of the choice we make, God loved us first.

Romans 5:8

Romans 5:10

Romans reminds us that "while we were yet sinners..." It is in the midst of our sin. We were enemies, it is in that recognition that God decided from the very beginning to love us because it is God's nature to love. God is the initiator; God is not passive. May I demonstrate this in the Biblical record:

- _____ . Genesis 6-9
- _____ . Genesis 17
- _____ . Exodus 3:1-14

God's active role, God as initiator continues throughout scripture as God moves towards the sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross.

How God's Love Was Displayed

How was God's love displayed and made known to us? Through the death of his one and only son Jesus on the cross. Jesus paid the price for humanity.

Atone _____

Propitiation _____

Substitutionary _____

God's Love Transforms

God's love does not act passively in us. It drives us, it transforms, and it changes us. It drives us to love one another (v.11), to care for our brothers and sisters (vv. 20-21), gives us confidence towards God even in judgement (vv. 17-18), and transforms us to be more like Christ (v. 17). If God was willing to take the initiative to love and sacrifice Christ for us and others.

Romans 8:37-39

Ephesians 2:4-5

Zephaniah 3:17