

**Sermon, December 25, 2011**

***“Love from Heaven...the Messiah”, 1 John 4:7-10; John 3:16***

**Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy**

**1 John 4:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**John 3:16**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

The “Secret Millionaire” vs God

God condescended to a lower estate, become man, and live among us;

He gave us a great gift;

and while He ascended back to His heavenly realm,

**He still lives with us today, a relationship restored...**

True love is given, God the Father loves you so much that He made a way for you to live with Him forever.

*The great love of the Father has given us His Son...  
the One who restores your relationship with God.*

**True love comes from God**

**1 John 4:7-8** <sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, **for love comes from God**. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**.

- God’s love for us is manifest in His relationship with us, a relationship He condescended to and **truly** desires with us.
- The Bible is not a set of rules, regulations and stories.
- The Bible is His Word, it **IS** the gospel; Jesus Christ restoring our relationship with God!
- From the very beginning of time the Old Testament reveals this unfolding love of God...

**1. The love of the Father began in the garden of Eden...many say that they wish they could be in the GOE...**

- God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) *created* Adam and Eve in His own image.
- Gave them freewill, the ability to choose right and wrong.
- They had a great *relationship* with God in the garden, but as good as it was God had better plans...
- When they chose wrongly He sacrificed the animal to cover their sin.
- While their Garden Fellowship with God was lost, in love he showed them **a better life to come**.

**2. When God made His covenant with Abraham he demonstrated a better relationship to come.**

- Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness!
- he believed God would give him a son,
- even when he was willing to sacrifice his son God provided the sacrifice
- Abraham believed and it was credited to him as righteousness; believed who, believed God who would save, his strong relationship with the Lord allowed him to see Christ,
- **John 8:56** <sup>56</sup> *Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.*  
**...Abraham saw a better life to come.**

**3. Moses saw a better life/relationship to come.**

- Hebrews 11:26 <sup>26</sup> *He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*
- he returned to Egypt, petitioned Pharaoh for the Hebrews freedom,
- through his relationship with God he gained their freedom
- **Exodus 15:13** <sup>13</sup> *In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.*  
**...He saw the love of the Father and a better life ahead.**

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**4. In David God displayed His anointed one, a type of Christ to come. David was a man after God’s own heart and realized the love of the Father.**

- in his most thoughtful moments God spoke to him and David wrote many of the Psalms;
- Psalm 6:4 <sup>4</sup> Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.
- David knew the love of the Father and the better life in store.

**All of the Old Testament put on display the love of the Father for you in a relationship!**

**5. God the Father expresses the pinnacle of His love for you, the relationship He seeks with you by giving His son...**

- **John 3:16** <sup>16</sup> *“For God so loved the world that **he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
- **1 John 4:9-10** *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
- ἀγαπήω (agape) is an active verb, indicating ongoing continuous activity; to have a warm regard for and interest in another, cherish, have affection for, altruistic love, all encompassing and unconditional

The love that God has for you calls you into relationship with him...the Bible is not a set of prescribed laws and regulations, but a relationship.

- God does not simply condescend to initiate and tolerate a relationship (Millionaire) but **He gives Himself** so that He can restore an **eternally loving relationship** with you!
- The demonstration of God’s love for you is found in Romans 5:8... **“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”**
- God loves you so much that He wants a relationship with you/me...sinners, imperfect people who are a disobedient lot, longing to do the right things, but lacking in wholeness...a relationship with Jesus!

**Conclusion**

There is a great contrast between the world’s way and God’s way...

World’s way: the millionaires may condescend (lower themselves) to the level of everyday people...  
God’s way: a little baby born 2000 years ago was the ultimate condescension, the creator of the universe coming in humanity...

World’s way: the millionaire may fake and tolerate a relationship with the poor  
God’s way: the creator truly loves you and seeks out a lasting relationship...

World’s way: the millionaire may give you a gift of money  
God’s way: God gives you the gift of eternal life with Him forever...

The great love of God for us is shown by His grace-filled plan of salvation.  
He gave His son so that we who believe will have life everlasting in an eternal relationship with the Almighty God.

**John 3:16** <sup>16</sup> *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

***The great love of the Father has given us His Son...  
the One who restores your relationship with God.***