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tomorrow than we do today. Comments welcome.

God Is Love

Love is what God is and loving is what God does. God loves the world but He desires that the world also love Him; and this is the essence of all commandments.

God being Love will not benefit Him or others unless there are others to love. Therefore, God made man capable of receiving love from Him and loving Him in return.

We see that some have benefited more than others from the fact that God is a God of love. Therefore, there must be some condition, reason, or cause by which love is expressed from God to man. Otherwise, everyone would receive the same benefits or none at all.

The Creator made man capable of receiving love and also loving. There must be a transaction of love between the Creator and the creature or else creation, itself, is in vain.

The creature (man) which received the capacity for love transactions is the one responsible for allowing the love of God to be expressed to him. Man was given the capacity of Faith in order that God could commune with him and express Himself and His will to man.

Faith is the capacity and ability to believe something and understand it well enough to evaluate it and act upon it. Any subsequent action is then the result of a will free to act in any manner.

The Creator did not give animals the capacity for behavior based on Faith, (believing and under-standing). Rather, an animal is a "computer driven" creature whose will is programmed by the Creator.

Man's will is not programmed and stored in his instinct, but is left free for man to use in the exercise of Faith.

It is through man's capacity for Faith that God will commune with man and his world. Communion with God therefore is unique with man because animals do not have it because they have no capacity for faith.

Since communion results from Faith then we would not expect communion to be the same for everyone because all are free to believe and behave in any way that they desire. We see man's use of his faith and free will, acting in ways which limit or obstruct communion with God and others.

The love of God becomes the most important and the most misunderstood issue in all of human life because love is the very reason for the creation of life. Likewise, love is the reason for all that God does in human life. This is even true for those who do not believe in God. Those who do not believe must find another source for all that God claimed to have done as well as for all that others claim that God has done.

Since Love is what God is then we must say that all He does is in some way the work of Love. Many and varied are these works of God which are recorded in the Bible, but more so are the works credited by man to God.

We call the works of nature The Acts of God since He is the Creator. The Bible reveals the personal activity of God which is not seen in nature. We believe that those Acts of God credited to God in the Bible are truly the works of God resulting from His Love, Purpose and Will, but we do not know how to discern the many things attributed to God by others because they often conflict with both the Bible's record and nature.

The fact that God is Love will benefit no one unless this Love is communicated to them.. God may say that He loves the world and many may believe what He says. But, until there is communication of that Love in deeds or action, no one can have the knowledge of God's love. They may have the Faith that believes, but they do not have the experience, or knowledge, which is communicated from a work of love.

I may communicate in words with someone far away who desperately needs my help and they may or may not believe my words when I say that I love them. However, if I act in their behalf they experience (know) love.

We see the love of God as it is manifested toward man and His world from the Creation until now. We mostly see God's Love in the history of the Jewish people because that is where He recorded it and explained it.

Many think of God's love as unconditional and unmerited. However, there must be some criteria for the dissimulation of this love because it is expressed in many forms and ways to different people at different times.

When Paul tells the Christian to let Love be without dissimulation he is saying we should not withhold it from anyone (neither does God). Only those who will believe and let you love them will ever receive and experience your love. Therefore, love deeds may be limited by dissimulation as well as reception.

The one who loves determines how his love will be expressed and to whom it will be manifested; while the object of love determines whether or not to receive that love.

God's Love is broadcast without dissimulation; but it is received by faith which discerns.

God's Love has no directional signal aimed in one direction only to be received by a few.

God's Love may see a need anywhere at anytime and respond to that situation with deeds of mercy. God may simply give counsel with words of wisdom. But whatever God is saying or doing results from His Love and He commands that man be like Him (that is, Holy) in this manner.

We see that God, who is Love, manifests this Love in many forms and ways such as: mercy, piety, compassion, long suffering, wisdom, guidance, comfort, etc.. We label these forms and ways as Grace because it is freely given by God.

All alike have Grace from God, but all do not have Grace alike, for there exists more Grace and Greater Grace and more Love and Greater Love.

God's Love and Grace and Power is limited to His Purpose and Will for He cannot allow Himself outside those boundaries else His works are vain. They also are limited by the free will of the receivers.

While God broadcasts without dissimulation and direction, the power of the signal and words are limited by environmental static and the desire and dedication to focus the antennas for clear reception.

We see God make a covenant with one nation to focus and broadcast Himself in their direction to speak and communicate to the world through them.

We see that nation focus their receivers toward God when He spoke of *His* faithfulness on their behalf; but that same nation permitted a stiff necked static to interfere when God spoke of *their* faithfulness on His behalf.

We see the Love of God expressed toward this people through various acts of mercy and grace but they still questioned God's Love for them.

We see the proof of God's love for these people in long suffering in spite of their lack of Faith to receive the benefits of His love.

In His love, God sent prophets to call the people back to Faith and Blessing many times but they willingly and knowingly continued in their unbelief.

Finally, God sent His Son with a final call to Faith in order that Faith would save them from

perishing in unbelief; but also that Faith would receive a promise that God made long ago of a blessing for all mankind.

Those with Faith to believe that they were in danger of perishing acknowledged their sin, repented and received forgiveness from God; and they did not perish with those who failed to repent.

We see those with Faith being saved from perishing (among those in unbelief) but we do not see a gift to them of life until they receive the Blessing which God broadcast to every family.

We see this Universal Blessing of the Grace and Love of God being offered first to the family who had received the national Blessing of Circumcision. It was offered to them on the basis of who would receive it. Few would receive it and few did receive it. So after years of directional broadcast to one people from one satellite in Jerusalem operated by Peter and the Disciples, God commissioned Paul to broadcast this World Blessing of Life to the whole world by satellites among every tongue and tribe; and on the same basis of Faith to receive it.

God's Gift of Eternal Life is not limited by dissimulation; rather, only by the Free Will to believe and receive. Neither is Eternal Life limited by meritorious works because it is not given on that basis;

neither is it limited by circumcision, race, religion, creed, or anything other than Faith.

The Free Will of Man in the exercise of Faith may respond to God and Nature in any manner that he chooses. This makes man sovereign in his behavior and conduct. Therefore, we must credit man with man's works as we credit God with His works.

The capacity of man for Faith and Free Will make it possible for man to receive grace from God or reject the Gifts of God. Therefore, there exists no such thing as *irresistible* Grace because man can believe anything he chooses and his will is free to reject any Gift of Grace.

If man possessed something that he could not (by Faith) resist then it was not given to his Faith to receive; rather, it was imposed, deposited, or transferred to him by some other method than by Faith. Since Faith is what one believes and consequently what he does based on that belief, then any transaction that must come through faith must be believed and obeyed because resistance would prevent the transaction of any gift or thing.

A man may find those things which relate to his property and person irresistible, but he may successfully resist all of those things related to his heart and soul.

The gift of God's Grace in Christ is different from all the Grace of God in the Acts of God toward man. It is the Gift of Eternal Life which must be put within the heart of man where man is sovereign. Therefore, permission must be granted for such a transaction.

If man could not resist this transaction of Grace, then man has no will that is free to resist - otherwise, he lacks the power or sovereignty to do so.

A free will has the power to resist any and all gifts (Grace, Rewards) but it may lack the power to resist judgment, condemnation, requirements, etc.

The will resides in the Heart (Spirit) of a Soul, not in the body of a Soul. Therefore, the will may successfully resist any invasion into the Spirit where it reigns supreme, but it may not be able to resist action against the Body or property.

The Heart of Man is locked on the inside where the Will has the Key to open, or close, the door to enter the heart; but this sovereign power on the inside of the

Soul does not make man sovereign on the outside of his soul.

Adam was created with the spirit of God abiding within his heart, but disobedience caused death (separation) which passed upon all mortals at birth from the corrupt (fallen) seed of man.

God's plan of Redemption called for restoration of fallen mortals to abide again in God. This means that the spirit of God must enter the heart subsequent to birth because God's spirit is not within the heart from birth into the flesh.

When Jesus was born into the flesh He abode in God and God in Him. Jesus willingly opened the door of His heart to let the spirit out and this left Him desolate, forsaken, abandoned, and separated from God; spiritually dead.

He was born with the Life that Adam was created with and He tasted, through obedience (faith), the same death which Adam tasted in disobedience.

The abode which Jesus had with God, His Father, is now the Gift of God to all who believe.

Since this Gift of God is God Himself (a Spirit) and since the abode is the Heart where the will has the key; the only way for God to abide in man's heart is through faith.

Man must be persuaded to open the door of his heart to receive the Gift of Life which is the Spirit of God Himself.

A free will may accept or reject anything offered related to Grace but it is not free to reject that which is required by law.

One may accept or reject any Grace (gift) but not be free to accept or reject any Law (requirement).

Faith is free to accept anything but it lacks the power to reject everything.

Faith is free to receive anything but it cannot receive that which is not available (offered).

Faith is believing. But believing does not make truth and reality; Faith permits one to lay hold on truth and reality (substance).

Faith may believe anything and everything but Faith cannot make a thing true or real, therefore what one believes is not necessarily true or real.

The Creator gave man the capacity for Faith; then He gave to Abraham that which is true and real (Himself) as the object of Faith.

Faith is believing, trusting and obeying; and God gave to Abram that which man is to believe, trust and obey.

Abram, a child of faith became the Father of Faith. Abraham, the Father of many Nations became The Father of Circumcision.

God chose Abraham and Faith as the channel through which His Love and Grace would rescue mankind from the death which entered through Adam. When this Redemption was accomplished by Jesus, the Son of Abraham and of God, Faith became the channel through which God offers the Gift of Eternal Life to everyone (all).

God is working through Abraham and Faith to bring about redemption, but God is working only through Faith to give life to the world. There is a big difference in the work of God to redeem the world and the work of God to give life to the world.

We see the Love of God manifested in many ways toward man but the supreme manifestation was the ransom paid by God's only begotten son.

God's work is seen in Egypt to redeem Jacob and God's work is seen in Christ to redeem the world.

God's work is seen in all that He does, but all that He does is not a work of Grace.

The work of redemption is one transaction, while giving is another transaction and Judgment is yet another transaction. Before one can grace another with a gift, he must first purchase the gift.

The purchase is an unilateral transaction, while the giving is a bilateral transaction.

The one who purchases the gift by one transaction is the one who gives the gift in another transaction.

The Bible gives us an account of the work of God mostly focused on one chosen nation. But that nation's faith receptors mostly failed to channel this work into their lives for the world to see.

When Christ, the Messiah, came to the chosen nation, He was the Seed of the Woman that had descended from Eden - through Him, God would redeem every family and nation.

We see God at work in a unilateral transaction at Calvary to save the world from death in Adam. And then we see God at work in a bilateral transaction to give Life to everyone who will receive Life by faith.

The Love of God for everyone may be seen in the unilateral transaction of Redemption at the Cross. But, that Love may only be seen for anyone in the bilateral transaction of Faith in Christ.

Man abides in Adam and Death from his birth in the flesh; but abides in Christ and Life from his Birth in the Spirit.

God's love purchased salvation for the world of mankind through faith in the Heart of Jesus. But God's love can only give salvation to the heart where Faith will receive it.

We see a big difference in the salvation of the nation by Moses and the Salvation of the world by Jesus, even though both are the unilateral work of God's grace and both must be received in a bilateral transaction of Faith.

The Gift of one is land while the gift of the other is Life. To get the redeemed nation into the land is very different from getting Life into the mortal man. The Gift through Moses was land while the gift through Christ is Life.

To persuade the nation to receive land is very different than persuading the world to receive Life. With land, one must believe that the new land is better than the old land and with life one must believe that the New Life is better than the old life. With Moses, one must have Faith to enter his inheritance; with Jesus one must allow the inheritance to enter him.

In Moses's salvation, the redeemed abide in the land; while in Jesus's salvation, the redeemed abide in Life. In both cases, the gift of God's love can be rejected or received; but in Jesus's case redemption cost the Redeemer His Life. Herein is the Love of God manifested.

In conclusion

There exist no such thing as the unconditional love of God or the irresistible Gift of that love, because The Gift is God himself which Spirit must enter man's heart through the door of man's will which may resist God's effort to give it.

God indeed is love and by giving fallen man His spirit He is giving His nature (love) which enables the man (Christian) to image the likeness of God Himself.

If a man could not resist a gift then neither could he receive a gift, likewise if a man could not disobey, then neither could he obey, because the ability to do one makes it possible to do the other, and man's will based on Faith decides which action will result.

God being Love benefits no one until and unless that love is manifest by some work of God and then communicated by God to someone who then may or may not believe it or receive it.

We may have Faith in and believe with confidence all the works of God as recorded in the Biblical text, but not the many works which are attributed to God by the testimony of those who say that God did this or that in their life or in nature.

God has a reason for all that he does and there exist a condition whereby man may have knowledge of it and to get in on it when invited to do so, for such is God's good pleasure to give man the Kingdom of God, and this condition is to believe and receive that which God gives.

The Bible calls the giving, grace, and the Bible calls the believing and receiving the works of Faith.

Faith is not a leap into the dark unknown where it cannot see where it expects to land. Rather, faith is a leap into the light of knowledge where it does see where it hopes to be.

God's love in giving His Son provides a valid reason for faith to believe that love exists, and believing provides a reason for seeking the reward of finding the love of God (Heb. 11:6).