

**EVERY WOMAN'S HOPE**  
**THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S GOODNESS — PART THREE: HIS LOVE**  
**Session 9 — February 22, 2023**

**THE BIG IDEA**

God has revealed his perfection of love in Scripture so that we can better understand who he is and glorify him. God's perfections describe him as both infinitely great and infinitely good.

The love of God is displayed in the bible by its various dimensions or facets, particularly God's kindness, grace, mercy, and longsuffering.

**OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION**

- 1) To accurately define each of the attributes that make up God's love, namely, his kindness, grace, mercy, and longsuffering.
- 2) To accurately understand the relationship between God's love and justice and to show how both attributes are in harmony with each other.
- 3) To deepen our worship, respect, and love for our good God.

**KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE** (You choose!)

"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." Exodus 34:6 (God speaking of himself)

"You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." Psalm 86:15

"He who does not love does not know God; for God is love... So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."  
1 John 4:8, 16

**THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S GOODNESS — PART THREE: HIS LOVE**

**GOD'S LOVE** - "God's selfless and enduring giving of himself"\*

1. Read Exodus 33:17-19 and 34:5-7. Write down the words or phrases that God uses about Himself. Circle the ones that you think have to do with love.
  
2. Read the following verses and note whom or what God loves and how He shows it.

Deut. 10:18 –

Ps. 37:28 –  
Jer. 1:1-3 –  
John 3:16 –  
John 5:20 –  
John 14:31 –  
Eph. 5:25 –

**HIS KINDNESS** - "the affectionate care that God has for the well-being of His creation"\*

3. Read Eph. 2:4-7. According to this passage, for what purpose did God raise us up with Christ and seat us with Him?
4. Read Romans 11:22-23. What is God's kindness contrasted with in this passage?
5. According to Romans 2:4, what is our response to God's kindness supposed to be?

**HIS GRACE** - "that aspect of His love that causes God to stoop down and grant a gift of goodness to one who has not--or could not--earn it or be worthy of it"\*

6. In the following passages, what idea does the word *grace* seem to mean?

Rom. 11:5-6 –  
2 Cor. 12:9 –  
1 Pet. 4:10 –  
Jude 1:4 –

7. Looking at your answers to the previous question, why might Peter have called God's grace "multifaceted"?

**HIS MERCY** (or compassion) - "that tender and compassionate help that God gives to those who are miserable and in need..."\*

8. Read Gen. 19:15-16. Why did the angels take Lot and his family by the hands and lead them out of Sodom?
9. Read 1 Pet. 1:3. What has God done for us "according to His great mercy"?

**HIS LONGSUFFERING** (or patience) - "that aspect of His love that is 'slow to anger' when provoked"

10. Read Nehemiah 9:16-21. How did the Israelites treat God? What does this passage imply would be a reasonable response from God? How did He respond instead?

11. Why has Jesus not yet returned to save His people and judge the world (see 2 Pet. 3:9)?

### **LIFE APPLICATION**

12. Some people find it a challenge to believe that God actually loves and will forgive them. Others tend to take God's love for granted and think little of His wrath. Which error is more of a temptation for you, and why?

13. Read Luke 7:36-47. In what ways are you like Simon? Is there anything you could change so that you love God more?

\*All definitions are taken from *The Chronicles of Redemption*, by Stephen Lonetti, p. 13.

For further study, you may search the following Strong's numbers with Blue Letter Bible. Depending on the translation you use, some of these words overlap.

Love – H157, G26

Kindness – H2617, G5544

Mercy – H7355, G1656

Grace – H2580, H2603, G5485

Longsuffering – H750, G3115