

SHARPENING YOUR SWORD
THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S GOODNESS — PART THREE: HIS LOVE
Session 9 — February 15, 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

*"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

- 1) In 1 John 4:8 we are told that "God is love". Using Blue Letter Bible, look up the definition and usage of love. Who is the beneficiary of this type of love? How does this compare to the world's definition of love?
- 2) According to the following verses, whom does God love?

John 3:16

Rom 5:8

- 3) Love is a communicable attribute of God. How do the following verses show that we imitate His love? How do these descriptions align with your life?

Matthew 22:37-38

1 John 5:3

1 John 2:15

1 John 4:19

- 4) Using Blue Letter Bible, look at the following verses and compare the translations and usages for the words for love and mercy (Strong's H7349, H7356, H2617, G3628).

Duet 4:31

Psalm 25:6

Psalm 103:4

Zechariah 1:16

2 Cor 1:3

- 5) What do the following verses show about the relationship between grace and the guilt of sin?

Rom 5:17,20

Rom 6:1

Eph 1:7

- 6) How is grace manifested in these verses?

Rom 3:23-24

Eph 2:8-9

Eph 3:7-8

Titus 2:11-12

James 4:6

2 Cor 12:9

7) What do the following verses say about God's anger?

Numbers 14:18

Nehemiah 9:17

Psalms 103:8-9

Psalms 145:8

Jeremiah 15:15

Joel 2:13

Jonah 4:2

Nah 1:3

8) What do the following verses say about the purpose of God's longsuffering? How does this affect your view of salvation?

Rom 2:4

Rom 9:22-23

1 Timothy 1:16

2 Peter 3:9, 15