

Appendix E:

Why Does God Love Us?

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This is such a great question! It's also a question that I have been asked, personally. Now before we answer this question, we must first ask why someone would be asking a question like this:

- Maybe they were never shown love.
- Maybe someone in their life that was supposed to show them love hurt them, instead.
- Maybe they didn't have a good role-model of what love should look like.

Or, maybe all of the above is true.

Regardless of what the answer may be, I would start this conversation by saying, "You are so very loved; I love and care about you so so much, and God loves you more than you can even imagine!"¹

Now with that being said, we can begin to answer our question: Why does God love us? Well, actually let's put that on pause for a second...

Before we answer why God loves us, let's first answer a second question, and that question is: "What is love?" Why? Because I could tell you all day how much God loves you, but if you don't understand what love is, then it probably won't mean very much to you. And, in our modern world, the definition of "love" is...confusing.

Let's begin by first getting an official definition for "love". This is just some of the many definitions of love that can be found in the Merriam Webster Dictionary:

Love

4.a: Unselfish, loyal, and benevolent concern for the good of another: such as

(1): the fatherly concern of God for humankind

(2): brotherly concern for others

b: a person's adoration of God

(Source: Merriam-Webster.com)

The Bible also has a few things to say about love. Let's take a look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

So, now that we know a little bit more about what love is, we can go back to our original question: "Why does God love us?" If we've sinned – which we have, walked away from God – which we do, and tried to do things our own way – which we try, then why would an amazing God, creator of the universe, love us?

¹ **Barry's Note:** I think Jess did this in the right order. You they can see and may believe; God they can't see and may not believe in. In this case, start with the human view and then move to God!

Well let me explain it the way it was explained to me when I asked this question. Think about it like this: You, as a human being, need to breath; it's just part of your existence. If you didn't breath, you couldn't exist. Well, just like how you need to breath to exist, God has to love because God IS love. That's just part of His being, of who He is.

Without God, there would be no love because love comes from God. Let me show you some verses that talk about this:

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. - 1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)

Now this verse tells us three things:

1. Love comes from God
2. Anyone who loves is a Child of God
3. God is love.

So this verse alone shows us two things that we talked about in the previous paragraph: Love comes from God, and God is love. But you shouldn't just use one verse to prove your point because anyone can take a verse out of context and make it mean whatever they want it to mean, right? So let's look at another one:

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. - 1 John 4:16 (NLT)

Again this tells us that God is love.

Okay, so, now we know what love is – both the definition and what the Bible says love should look like. We know that without God there is no love, and we know that God is love. So with all that in mind, let's look at some verses that tell us just how much God loves us:

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! - 1 John 3:1a (NLT)

We are Children of God! God literally welcomes us into His amazing family with open arms and all we have to do is believe in Him! How cool is that?

*And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, **though it is too great to understand fully**. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. - Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)*

This is one of my favorite set of verses! This verse tells us that we can't even understand how much God loves us because it is just something that our human brains can't comprehend!

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NLT)

So not only does God love us, but He will never stop loving us, because nothing in this whole world can ever take us away from our Heavenly Father!

Alright, we're almost finished, but before we go, let me tell you one more thing about how much God loves you.

Let's take a quick look at John 3:16-17 where it tells us what is quite possibly the most amazing thing in the entire Bible:

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. - John 3:16-17 (NLT)

And Romans 5:5-8 where it says:

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. - Romans 5:5-8 (NLT)

So these two passages tell us that God loves us so much that He sent His own Son, Jesus, to come down to earth and die a brutal death just so that we could have the choice to become children of God!

Now if you look in Romans 5, it tells us that most people wouldn't be willing to die for someone else. Oh, maybe if the person they were dying for was a really, really good person, then maybe they would die for them...but they still might not actually do it.

But God gave up His Son for all of us, even though we didn't deserve it. And if that sounds crazy to you, that's why we talked about how we aren't capable of fully understanding God's love.

So why does God love us? Well, He doesn't just love; He is love.