

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (PART 2)

Why the Blood and Why the Cross? (Couldn't God have devised another way?)
Why does the Plan of Salvation found **ONLY** in Jesus Christ “work?”

QUESTION: Think about someone you love. Now ask yourself this question: **WHY** do I love that person? (*You don't have to write the answer since that's probably personal!*)

ANSWER: Because _____

1. Now read the following scripture about the **LOVE of GOD**—the **LOVE that God IS**:

- “The LORD did **NOT** set his **LOVE** upon you, **NOR CHOOSE YOU**, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: **But BECAUSE THE LORD LOVED YOU** and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

WOW!!! How different is God's love from the natural, human experience!!! He is saying, “**I LOVE YOU BECAUSE...I LOVE YOU!!!**”

QUESTION: Looking at the above scripture in Deuteronomy and in your own words, how is the natural, human experience of love **DIFFERENT** from the **AGAPE LOVE of God**?

ANSWER: _____

2. Colossians 2:9 “For **in Him** (*Jesus*) dwelleth **ALL THE FULNESS** of the **Godhead bodily.**”

Since God IS Love (that is to say, His essence, His being *is* **LOVE**) and since the above scripture states that **in Jesus** dwelled the **FULNESS** of the **Godhead BODILY**, Jesus Christ was/is the **LOVE of GOD (AGAPE) INCARNATED!** God's Love had a “**Body**” prepared for it as the Psalmist stated approximately **1000 years before the Birth of Christ**:

- “**Sacrifice and offering** thou didst **NOT DESIRE**; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou **NOT REQUIRED**. Then said I, (*JESUS*) **Lo, I come**: in the **volume of the book it is written of me**, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy **LAW** is **WITHIN MY HEART.**” (Psalm 40:6-8)

The New Testament writer of Hebrews explains this Old Testament scripture further:

- “For **THE LAW** (*the practices under the Law of Moses*) having a **SHADOW** of good things to come, and **NOT** the **VERY IMAGE** of the things, can **NEVER** with **THOSE SACRIFICES** which they offered **year by year continually** make the **COMERS** (*the people*) thereunto **PERFECT**. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. **BUT** in **THOSE SACRIFICES** there is a **REMEMBRANCE** again **made of sins EVERY YEAR**. For it is **NOT POSSIBLE** that the **BLOOD OF BULLS** and of **GOATS** should **TAKE AWAY SINS**. Wherefore when **He (Jesus)** cometh into the world, **He saith**, Sacrifice and offering thou **wouldest not**, but a **BODY** hast thou **PREPARED** me: In **burnt offerings** and **sacrifices for sin** thou hast had **NO PLEASURE**. Then said I, **Lo, I come** in the **VOLUME OF THE BOOK** it is written of Me, to **DO THY WILL**, O God. Above when He said, **Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not**, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are **OFFERED BY THE LAW**; Then said **He, Lo, I come** to **DO THY WILL**, O God. He **TAKETH AWAY** the **FIRST**, (*the Old Covenant of the Letter of the Law that kills*) that He may **ESTABLISH** the **SECOND** (*the New Covenant of the SPIRIT of the Law which gives LIFE*). By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the **BODY** of **Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL**.” (Hebrews 10:1-10)

3. Many aspects of our physical world illustrate **SPIRITUAL** principles. **DARKNESS CAN NEVER EVER OVERCOME LIGHT!!!** For example, the tiniest flicker of **LIGHT** in a darkened room, **DISPELLS** darkness. So it is with the **LOVE of God** and the **LOVE that GOD IS**. It **OVERCOMES!!!** The passage in I Corinthians 13 states that this kind of **LOVE NEVER NEVER NEVER FAILS!!!** This **LOVE that GOD IS** (*and remember the previous scriptures stated that God CHANGES NOT, that His counsel is IMMUTABLE, that there is NO SHADOW, NO VARIABLENESS IN HIM- which means He is PERFECTION*) ultimately **WILL triumph** over **HATE, EVIL, SIN, REBELLION, LAWLESSNESS!!!** It’s just a matter of time. As Pastor so eloquently stated a few Sundays ago, evil carries within itself the “seed” of eventual self-destruction. **BUT**, the **ETERNAL LOVE** of the **UNCHANGABLE MOST HIGH GOD** carries within itself the “seed” of **VICTORY** and **LIFE!!!**

The **LOVE** that **God is** is absolutely **UNQUANTIFIABLE**, self-perpetuating (like a dynamo) **POWER!** Need proof? ...

QUESTION: What did Jesus tell the Pharisee lawyer that the **GREATEST** commandment was?

ANSWER: (See Matthew 22:37-40) _____

4. In this passage Jesus is telling the Pharisee and all who listen that the **LOVE** that God **IS** is so powerful that **EVERYTHING** in **REDEMPTION**, **EVERYTHING** **FORESHADOWED** in the **LAW** and the **PROPHETS** “**HANGS**” upon **AGAPE LOVE’S** existence!

We would be doomed were it not for the **AGAPE LOVE** of God!!! This **LOVE** is **HIS STRENGTH!**

QUESTION: Now that we’ve attempted to gain some understanding of this kind of Love that God is, what is He illustrating to angels (elect and evil), to worlds seen and unseen, and to humanity regarding His “War on Sin and Rebellion?” What did Almighty God set about to **PROVE?**

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: Why was Jesus’ mission **FAIL-PROOF?**

ANSWER: _____

5. Tina Turner who sang the rock and roll song many years ago, “What’s Love Got to Do with It,” had it **ALL WRONG!!!** God’s **AGAPE LOVE** has **EVERYTHING TO DO WITH IT!!!** Without it, our worlds seen and unseen would be eternally locked into hopelessness, disorder, chaos, lawlessness, misery, sin, and evil! *Sounds like what the Bible describes as **HELL**, doesn’t it?*
6. So now we know that God was addressing the “fallenness” of worlds seen and unseen by devising a plan which would **PROVE** and graphically illustrate that **HIS LOVE** is **undefeatable**—that **HIS LOVE** is the **most powerful FORCE OR ENTITY** in this world or the world to come! **NOTHING** can come remotely close to challenging it in its **POWER!!**

*Next week we will look at **WHY** He chose the particulars of the **CROSS** and the **BLOOD** in **HIS LOVE PLAN** to overcome **ALL EVIL**.*