

September 20, 2015

“The Love Of God”

John 3:22-36

A study in contrasts: Prince Charles and Prince William

In general, children who are well loved are more prepared to love well.

What does “The Love Of God” refer to? =

1. God’s love for us.
2. That God is love (1 John 4:8,16).
3. The Intra-Trinitarian relationships.

“For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands”(John 3:34-35).

- Trinitarian passage –Spirit, God [Father] and the Son
- Because of the Father’s love for the Son:
 - God has given Jesus the “Spirit without limit” (verse 34). Jesus is “the prophet of prophets.”
 - God has “placed everything in his hands” (verse 35).

We “pull back the curtain” on the “love of God”:

- i. Our love for each other and for God (the actors on the stage).
- ii. “We love because He first loved us.”(1 John 4:19).
- iii. God, within His three-personed Self / Being, is loving.

The Father's Love For The Son

“The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands (John 3:35).

“For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does.”(John 5:20).

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you” (John 15:9).

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world” (John 17:24).

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

Words To Describe This Trinitarian Love:

- God is never bored, never at odds
- Eternal joy (the “happy land of the Trinity”)
- A “dance”
- Continually delighting in the other persons of the Trinity

So What?!?!

1. A uni-personed God could not love.
2. God's motivation.
3. The Father's love for the Son magnifies the giving of Jesus.

“Indeed, this love of the Father for the Son is what makes sense of John 3:16. True. ‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son’—there the object of God’s love is the world. But the standard that tells us just how great that love is has already been set. What is its measure? God so loved the world that he gave his Son. Paul’s reasoning is similar: If God did not spare his Son, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things (Rom. 8:32)? The argument is cogent only because the relationship between the Father and the Son is the standard for all other relationships” (D.A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine Of The Love*