

The Father's Endless Love Gospel

I. God is Love

A. God's Love FOR Us

1John 4:16 NIV And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

B. God is Good, Loving God, Unchanging

Ps 100.4 Enter his gates with **thanksgiving**,
and his courts with **praise!**
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

5 For the LORD is **good**;
his steadfast **love** endures **forever**,
and his **faithfulness** to all generations.

II. Jesus is the Final Expression of God - Jesus is the Gospel! Matt, Mark, Luke, John

Differing Metaphors: Sometimes we communicate it in differing ways. God is a **Creator, Lord, Father, Winged Being, Shepherd, Farmer, Judge, Light Consuming Fire, Ancient of Days,**

III. God as Judge Gospel Presentation:

- God created man in his image
- Man sinned and turned away, God is too holy to look on sin and turns away
- Man is alienated, God makes various covenants, man fails and is guilty before a perfect God. Relationship of enmity.

- Finally, the Love of God is expressed in the Incarnation. Shows us the Father.
- Leads to the Cross. The Father makes him sin, turns his back, and all the judgment of the wrath of God against sin falls upon him. He dies.
- Because he was sinless, God raises him from the dead.
- Now, if we put out trust in him, we are hidden in Him from the wrath of God against sin, covered by his blood and have eternal life.
- If we reject him, then God rejects us.

IV. Difficulties

1. *Puts Salvation in Our Hands*

If I turn from God will He really turn from me, or will he come find me?

2. *Pits God Against You!*

*God is for us not against us **John 3:16***

*Isn't God too holy to look on sin? **No!** That was the Pharisees!
He comes to seek and to save the lost, the sinful, the dying.*

2. *Pits God Against Christ!* (Like Good Cop – Bad Cop)

*Did God turn His face from Christ? **No! The Trinity** cannot be divided!*

Ps 22:1 My God, My God.... (that's the first verse! Shorthand for the whole Psalm. Suffocating. This is what's going on!

- 14 *I am poured out like water, all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;*
- 16 *For dogs encompass me;
... they have pierced my hands and feet—*
- 17 *I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me;*

- 18 *they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.*
- 19 *But you, O LORD, do not be far off!*
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
- 22 *I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation **I will praise you:***
- 24 *For **he has not despised** or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and **he has not hidden his face from him,**
but has heard, when he cried to him.*
- 27 *All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you!*

What WAS Christ doing as He Died?

(Here is how the early church understood it. The Pascal Homily of St. John Chrysostom)

And as he dies he destroys death!

Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free.

He that was taken by death has **annihilated** it.

By descending into Hell, He made Hell **captive**.

He embittered it when it tasted His flesh. ...

It was embittered, for it was abolished.

It was embittered, for it was mocked.

It was embittered, for it was slain.

It was embittered, for it was overthrown.

It was embittered, for it was bound in chains.

It took a body, and met God face to face.

It took earth, and encountered Heaven.

It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.
O Death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?
Christ is risen, and you are overthrown.
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.
Christ is risen, and life reigns.
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.
For Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the first
fruits of those who sleep.
To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

V. A More Ancient Kinder More Beautiful Version:

- God creates man in his image for perfect fellowship.
- Man turns away, sins and subjects creation to corruption, futility and death.
- God who is love, turns toward him, clothes him and goes with him out of the Garden
- **Cain** turns from Love, is jealous of his brother, God comes to him and warns him.
- **Cain** turns away from Love, kills his brother, God comes to him and asks him where his brother is.
- **Abraham** messes up, God comes to him blesses him
- **Hagar** can't take the hostility, runs away, God comes to her.
"I have seen the God who sees me."
- **Moses** turns away from love, kills a man, runs away. God shows up in a bush!

- **David** and the hot tub problem - turns away from love, God gives them Solomon and the Messianic line!
Ps 139.7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- **God, who is Love, can't stand to see his creation in futility and death, pours himself into human form in the Incarnation.**
- **The Woman at the Well** - has a man problem. God comes and sits beside her. I know you are thirsty, I know you have relationship issues. I will put a spring of living water inside you!
- **The little man** who turned away from love, betrayed his own people, abused his countrymen, collecting taxes for the Romans and far more than necessary, piling up money, but alienated and lonely. God walks under his tree, "**Zacchaeus**, come down. I want to eat with you and be your friend!
- **The woman caught in adultery.** God bends down beside her and writes on the ground. "Where are those accusers? Has no one condemned you? Neither do I. Go and sin no more."
- **The demoniac.** God takes a boat trip to set him free, give him back his mind, his clothing, his community.
- **Take up your pallet • Tabitha, arise • Go in Peace**
- **To the most corrupt Sanhedrin and the deadly government that chose to kill him, he says:**
- **Father, forgive them**
- **It is finished (maybe he hears Father speaking?)**

- Into your hands I commit my spirit.
- Descends into Death to Destroy it, Preach to the Fallen Angels, Open the Graves. God Raises Him,
- If YOU RUN, He will RUN TOWARD YOU... If you run away your whole life? **Ps 139**

Are YOU tired of running FROM, want to run TO Love?

VI. To the Lukewarm He says

Rev 3. 20 **Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.**

21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, ..."

What's He Saying to You?

Eternal life begins the moment you say, "Yes" to God.

LIFT YOUR HANDS into the OILY ELECTRIC PRESENCE

Holy Spirit come! Pour out the awe of God and the love of God in our hearts.