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# Loving the Lord Jesus Christ and Avoiding Anathema!

*“If any man love not the Lord  
Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema  
Maranatha.” (1 Corinthians 16:22)*

# The God of Love & the Love of God

- God is **Sovereign** and **Omnipotent** (Dan 4:34-35)
- God has two **essential** attributes
  - Love (1 John 4:8)
  - Holiness (Lev 11:44)
- Eternal Love: Father – Son – Holy Spirit
  - **Profound** affection exists between the members of the Godhead (John 17:1-5, 24-26)
  - They **serve** one another out of love – no jealousy exists
  - The Son does **only** what the Father desires (John 8:29)
  - The Father is **pleased** with the Son (Matt 3:17)

# Creation and Love

- God created all for His glory and pleasure
  - He is worthy of all honor and glory (Rev 4:11; 5:11-14)
  - Love and Personal Glory co-exist in God
    - God's demand for worship does not negate His love
    - God's exaltation above creation is righteous and due Him
    - Love does not ignore truth

# Creation and Sin

- Love, holiness, and sin???
- How could God allow sin to enter His creation?
  - Love required the potential for sin
  - Love involves the ability to choose
  - Without choice, everything becomes mechanical

# Love Defined

- Love: a profound tender affection for a person; an affection of the mind excited by beauty and worth of any kind.
- Love sees the value of someone
- Love allows one to have purpose
- Giving love shows you value someone and see purpose in them
- Receiving love means someone sees value and purpose in you
- Love involves action – it is given and received

# Finding God's Love in Scripture

- 1<sup>st</sup> use of the word “Love” in the Old Testament
  - Deut 4:37; 7:7-8; 10:12-15; 33:3
- Why so far into scripture?
- The word “love” does not necessarily need to be used in order for one to understand the God of Love
- God's love was displayed in Creation
  - Man's occupation and purpose reveal God's love
- God's love is manifested by His actions
  - God walked with Adam regularly prior to Adam's sin
- Redemption's promise shows God's love (Gen 3:15; 1 John 4:10)
- God is love! (1 John 4:8,16)

# Love is **SUPREME**

- Love sees all things as possible
- Love is the **highest** order of living
- **God is love** – it is the essence of who He is
- Loving allows us to share in the very essence of God
- Loving God and loving others is the **most fulfilling** experience we can have
  - Love is the liberty in which we are to stand (Gal 5:1)
  - This liberty is that of loving service to God and others (Gal 5:13-14)
  - Love is the fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22)
  - Christ's law – Love – is the “perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25)



# The Ultimate Love

- God's ultimate display of love was the **gift** of His Son! (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10)
- Jesus love brought:
  - Redemption
  - Restoration
  - Great Salvation
    - God's Purpose and Privilege for man reveal His Love (1 John 4:9; Heb 2:5-10)
    - Nothing attests to the love of God more than His plan for mankind – sharing in His rule! (Gen 1:26-28; Rev 3:21; 22:5)

# Loving the Lord Jesus Christ

- Loving the Lord Jesus Christ results in the **manifest presence** of the Lord
  - The amount of love we show the Lord Jesus will be met with reciprocal love from Him! (John 14:15, 21-23)
  - Loving Him affords us indescribable benefits (1 Cor 2:9)
- Worship the Lord in all His glory
  - Altitude effects attitude! (Matt 17:1-4)
  - Set your mind on things above (Col 3:1-2; Heb 1:1-3; 12:1-3)
  - Lay up treasures in Heaven (Matt 6:19-21)