

PART 3: Is Love God's Main Attribute?

I wish to cite a response from an Australian man to the question posed in this topic, 'Are you saved by God's grace or His justice?'

Australian Man replies: "I would say: **by His love**, His main attribute, from which everything flows, including His grace and justice.

If you want to unravel the mystery of salvation and how the Spirit of God melts together with the spirit of an individual at conversion then you (IMO) should start with trying to grasp God's main attribute, His love and the love He nourishes for every individual before moving to grace and justice.

Why was it that God came down to us in the flesh?

Grace, justice, or love?"

Below is my response to Australian Man:

There is no disagreement that God is love. Nor is there disagreement that God loves.

However, where I will respectfully disagree is with your statement which declares, "love is God's main attribute."

In point of fact, there is no attribute of God weightier than another. Since God is infinite, all His attributes are infinite. That which is infinite is not greater than any other which is also infinite.

The question of import revolves around this question: How is a holy, loving, just God able to reconcile God-hating sinners to Himself, while at the same time maintaining all His infinite attributes without doing injustice to His perfect holiness and righteousness?

For example, many sincere Christians believe it is no big deal that God first needs to 'foresee' who will accept Christ, and then, based on what man does, elects that person to salvation.

However, for God to behave in such a way is detrimental to several of His attributes.

1. It maligns His omniscience, which means there is nothing God needs to learn.
2. It maligns His sovereignty, which means God makes all decisions, contingent on nothing outside of Himself.
3. It maligns His wisdom, which means God does not need the creature to help Him make decisions.
4. It maligns His will of purpose to save, for there may be a creature He willed to save, but despite all His efforts, that creature's obstinate will was greater than His, thereby frustrating God's purpose to save him.
5. It maligns His perfection, which means God cannot be frustrated or fail at anything He purposes.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to study the attributes of God. This knowledge is foundational to understanding biblical eternal truth.

I now wish to bring to your attention a truth which we should not dismiss as irrelevant.

Scripture teaches the immutability of God. The Lord does not change, nor does He change His mind once He has decreed His eternal purpose concerning a person, thing or event.

If God loves the world today, He loved the world yesterday. His love is not fickle, nor is it mutable.

Yet He destroyed the world of yesterday by Flood, excepting 8 souls.

Where was God's immutable love then? For God so loved the world that He destroyed that which He loved in the days of Noah. Is drowning the elderly, infants, and handicapped the result of immutable love?

Furthermore, if God's love is His 'main' attribute, why then does Paul declare we are all born 'children of wrath?' (Ephesians 2:3).

Is God's wrath God's love?

Why does not Paul call us 'children of God's unconditional love?'

And since God's love is immutable, does God love those who are now residing in Hell, awaiting the Day of Judgment?

Can you not see the necessity of taking all of God's attributes into consideration before making a rash judgment (such as 'love' is God's main attribute), which is ultimately in direct conflict with Scripture and reality?

I am simply asking you to explain how it is an immutable God who loves the world, would drown the world, sending untold billions to unspeakable pain and torment in Hell.

If you have no answer, it's ok to say so. Or if you do not believe in God's immutable nature, please say so.

(Needless to say, Australian Man soon dropped out of the conversation, an angry, prideful Australian man who refused to respond.)