



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Finding in His Heart to Love, God Moves Heaven and Earth

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Tonight we look into the heart of God. Holy ground demands our reverence. With His whole Being, God, in an attitude of benevolence, wants to benefit us. His love is freely chosen. It is a spontaneous determination and firmly fixed. God's love is active, creative, in no way harming, giving whatever the cost. God gives His all to be available to us. His love is uncaused and unevoked.

God's ideal is our perfection. Therefore, His is a holy love that calls us to holiness and righteousness in obedience to His precepts. Sometimes, His love appears stern, for "chastening" means "purifying," "to make chaste." Without holiness, no one will see the Lord. God's interest is not in our instant gratification and the pleasures of gratifying the flesh. If we are to draw closer to God, we must be willing to give up our love for the world, our love for self, and any service to Satan.

It is God's solemn good pleasure to love. We will come to find no reason for Him to love us but that He has chosen to do so. He only wants our well-being. In amazing condescension, God, the Creator of the universe, is willing to be a friend to us.

God is an absolutely devoted "Lover." He will never abandon the object of His love and remains faithful. He does not betray. Yet I find that many people think that they can "get over" on God, somehow keep on taking His gifts and having Him get them out of trouble. These people seek the gifts and not the Giver. What a heartbreak! They view God as someone to "use" to meet their needs and demands. In this they pervert to their own advantage how they see God as One who loves. He is not the center of their lives. Rather, they sit on thrones thinking God is at their beck and call to serve their interests. God is not mocked and is no fool. Read Proverbs chapter one and Galatians chapters 5 and 6. We must beware lest we become such.

No one loves better than God. With Him we can be completely honest and open, as close as we want to be. He is gentle and will not force Himself upon us. He keeps His part of the Covenant. He gives His people a new heart with which to respond to His love appropriately and to leave rebellion. A love relationship with God finds its sustenance in the vital spiritual union with Jesus Christ. The fear of God becomes our motive. This vital spiritual union becomes the dynamic.

I see so many people running around randomly petitioning God for this or that. The most common prayer requests concern health and money, then family issues, and least, if ever, God Himself. The Gift is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is what the Father promised to give and the One Jesus promised to send that we not be left orphans and that we might be comforted. He is the enabler...not for us to do whatever WE want, but to enable us to remain faithful to God and have a marvelous relationship with Him. We are given grace that we might obey, in supreme loyalty and attachment to the LORD, through faith which works by love.

To love God is the greatest commandment. God gives us a new heart and empowers us by the Holy Spirit such that we who are the recipients of His grace through faith may now express that faith in love out of the dynamic of vital spiritual union with Christ. It is best to think of love to God as loyalty, a loyalty which seeks to keep Christ's commandments. In response to His love for us and demand for supreme loyalty and attachment to Him (not goodies), we actively desire, seek to know, and will to obey His precepts and commands. Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. They are not given to be a source of grief to us or to do us in. They are there to guide our lives as God's standard of how we, as the demonstration people of God and reflectors of His glory, should live.

Our awe and reverence for God, our praise and worship given Him as is due, should touch our hearts such that we do not want to grieve the Holy Spirit within us or want to offend Him or resist Him or lie to Him or vex Him. Rather, we will want to please Him. We will want to engage ourselves in proper activities. We will want to stop eating and drinking and fellowshiping with demons and stop giving ourselves to the service of Satan and his realm. We will offer ourselves in devoted service to God...without reserve.

As to loving others, the question is; Are we neighborly? If we are a neighbor, then those in need as we have opportunity will be our neighbor. God calls us to love actively our families, the family of God, and those in our circle of influence. (Galatians 6:10)

Whenever we feel like running away from God, when Satan comes and voices tell us it's too late and our sin is too great, too heinous, etc.; that's when we need to run to God as fast as we can and hide ourselves in His Presence as a Refuge until the storm blows over. Always, always, always come to God no matter what. Remember that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He is a murderer and wants us eternally dead. Give him nothing! God overwhelms us, as He did Job, with His majesty and greatness so that we will surrender ourselves to Him and humble ourselves under His mighty hand. Then He can truly bless our lives. The safest place we will ever be is in Christ.

God desires relationship. Sin and iniquity separate us from God, and God hates it. God seeks reconciliation and took the initiative in that reconciliation by sending Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins and bear the wrath and curse sin justly deserves. God's heart feels the woundedness of sin and the agony of rejected love. That love, His love, is foreign to our nature, foreign to selfishness, and foreign to the familiar, but by grace we are saved.

God's love is an authentic love. It expresses itself in humble service, e.g. John 13, Philippians 2. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us (1 John 3.16)." In an act of pure love God gave Himself in Christ on the cross for undeserving sinners. (1 John 4.10) Not pride, but self-humiliation. Not self-assertion, but self-abasement, sacrifice, and self-giving. The cross, which appeared to be "shame," was in fact "glory."

God's love is an undivided love, a love in which Jesus Christ demonstrates a personal, loving solidarity with us in our afflictions. God meets us in union, common union, and community. Jesus didn't come to condemn, but to save. (John 3) He isn't against us. He is for us. (Romans 8)

God's love is a committed love. It is a love that enables us to conquer. It is a **ravishing love**, a tenaciousness grace that will not let us go. God is going to bless His people and have their hearts.

God's love is a binding love. Angels, principalities, powers, things present or things to come cannot break the tie that binds us to God through Jesus. Death cannot break it. Life cannot break it.

God's love is a bonding love. We are bonded to God in a covenant bond sealed by the Blood of Christ, a bond so strong that neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

That love is stronger than death, and in it we find rest.

God's love is a compassionate and merciful love. While we were yet enmity with Him, while we were sinners, God identified Himself with our welfare. He looked beneath our rebellion, our shame, and our guilt, to our need. God commanded light into our darkness. God gave His Son, Jesus, to save His people, and now brings them to know and enjoy Him in a covenant relationship founded on His grace.

God's love is an electing love. The love of God is free, spontaneous, unevoked, uncaused, unfailing. God loves His own because He has chosen to love. (Deuteronomy 7.6-8)

God's love is a covenant love. It is not that the object of God's love merits that love. When God chooses to love, He loves because He loves. (Titus 3.4-7) We have value because of the One who loves us.

God's love is an infinite love. Jesus reveals God's love and mediates it. God gives because He is the Source and Supplier of all things. God gave His Son to be the Divine Messiah, the God-Man, to die for sin, to mediate both the forgiving love of God and the gift of love through the Holy Spirit. God's love surpasses knowledge. The Father demonstrates His love in sending the Son.

Jesus, the Son of God, demonstrates His love by coming and doing the work of mediation. He lived out all the requirements of obedience leading to life for us. He died for us. He rose again in victory as Lord over all. He enables our reconciliation with God.

This love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. Being given the Holy Spirit demonstrates the measure of God's love. How much does God love us? He gives us His Son, Jesus. He gives us the Holy Spirit.

God loves us with all of His own heart, mind, and strength. God loves us even as the Father has loved Jesus (John 17). Our worth is based on the One who has chosen to love us.

God's love is a holy love. God is holy. Jesus Christ cleanses us for the purpose and possibility of being a loving people, a holy people. God will meet you where you are and take you where you need to be. Love does no harm.

God's love is a love we can trust and hope in. God forgives us our sins that all barriers might be removed and He can pour His love into us, conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ.

God's love is an unfailing love. God is committed to loving us and God's love never fails. We come to reflect the glory of that love, that abiding and eternal love.

Without love, life would become unbearable. Relationships would deteriorate. Families would disintegrate. Lying loves do indeed lead to soul murder and the killing of the spirit. But the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit counted the cost of love, made the commitment, and moved out resolved. **God's love is a resolute love.** God chose to love us and paid the price. God loves in deed. **God's love is, in truth, the love without a lie.**

Bibliography: Craig, Dr. Mary. *Snapshots of the Glory: The Awesomeness of God*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., 2013 (Pages 30-34)

Blessing the Living God for His love,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

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