

'Fountains of Goodness and Love': The Loving God

Introduction

1) Your God is love (1 John 4:8)

"The Apostle tells us that God is love, 1 John 4:8. And therefore seeing he is an infinite Being, it follows that he is an infinite fountain of love, seeing he is an all-sufficient Being, it follows that he is a full and overflowing and an inexhaustible fountain of love. Seeing he is an unchangeable and eternal Being, he is an unchangeable and eternal source of love. There in heaven dwells that God from whom every stream of holy love, yea, every drop that is or ever was proceeds." Jonathan Edwards

2) You were loved (1 John 4:9-10)

"He did not withhold one whit of the full toll of judgement, the stokes fell upon him in unrelieved intensity with all the weight due to the sins he bore." John Murray.

3) You are loved (1 John 3:1)

"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you send me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:22-23

"Get the thought into your head a minute: "God loves me"—not merely bears with me, thinks of me, feeds me, but loves me. Oh, it is a very sweet thing to feel that we have the love of a dear wife, or a kind husband; and there is much sweetness in the love of a fond child, or a tender mother; but to think that God loves me, this is infinitely better! Who is it that loves you? God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Almighty, All in all, does He love me? Even He? If all men, and all angels, and all the living creatures that are before the throne loved me, it were nothing to this—the Infinite loves me! And who is it that He loves? Me. The text saith, "us." "We love Him because He first loved us." But this is the personal point—He loves me, an insignificant nobody, full of sin—who deserved to be in hell; who loves Him so little in return—God loves ME." Charles Spurgeon

4) You are loved into love (1 John 4:7-21)

*"Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be."*
Samuel Crossman.

Review questions

- 1) Why is it a magnificent truth that God is love?
- 2) You were loved and you are loved – what are the obstacles to believing that?
- 3) How would you describe God now we're at the end of Ledbury? – write a few words down to take away with you.
- 4) What one thing do you want to take away from Ledbury this year?

*"could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky."*