

# Love of God

## *Billy Graham*

### I. Introduction.

- A. You have the power of decision over your life and that decision is up to you.
- B. Text: John 3:16.
- C. If God loves, why does the world have to suffer?
- D. Most of us have a false understanding of God.

### II. Who God is.

- A. We cannot prove God in a laboratory, but we can know Him experientially.
- B. What kind of a God He is.
  - 1. The Scripture assumes His existence - He is creator of the universe. (Psalm 33:6)
  - 2. God is a Spirit filling all the universe at the same time.
  - 3. God does not change. (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17)
  - 4. God is a holy and righteous God, and He hates sin. (Leviticus 19:2, Psalm 145, Habakkuk 1:13)
  - 5. God is a God of judgment. (Ecclesiastes 1:4, Matthew 11, Acts 17, Romans 2:5)
  - 6. God is a God of love, and He loves you. (1 John 4:8, Jeremiah 31:3, Malachi 1:2, Ephesians 2:4)
    - a. This is why God created humans.
    - b. God wanted other creatures created in His image whom He could love and receive love from.
    - c. You are worth little monetarily.
    - d. What makes you important is that you are a soul created in the image of God, which Jesus said is worth more than the entire world.

### III. What happened to man.

- A. God gave man a moral choice.
- B. Man thinking he could get along without God deliberately broke God's rule.

- C. Consequently, man has been suffering and dying ever since.
- D. We are sons of Adam and are all born with sin as a result.
- E. Sin affects every phase of our lives - this is the reason for the world's problems.(Genesis 6:12)
- F. The problem of the world is a heart problem - we are all sinners.
- G. There is a penalty for sin since God is a holy God. It is eternal separation from God.
  - 1. You were made for God.
  - 2. Without God, you cannot find peace or fulfillment.
- H. In spite of our failures, God says that he loves us.

IV. God came in the form of a man Jesus Christ in order to say that He loved us and was willing to save and change us.

- A. This is why Jesus went to the cross.
- B. Either you have to pay for your own sins or someone else has to pay for them. God in the person of His Son came and took our sin. (2 Corinthians 5:21, Isaiah 53:6 1 Peter 2:24, 1 Peter 3:18)
- C. God offers pardon for all past, present and future sins because of what Christ did. By grace you are saved through faith.
- D. Christ rose from the dead so that all might be made alive. Our hope is the glorious future reign of Jesus with His Second Coming.

V. God's requirement for eternal life.

- A. You must repent, which means to acknowledge that you are wrong before God and to be willing to turn from your sin. (Matthew 4:17)
- B. You must receive by faith Jesus Christ, which means commitment and surrender.
- C. Three alternatives.
  - 1. You can reject Christ and you will turn away grieved and sorrowful.
  - 2. You can neglect Christ for a more convenient time, but there often is not another time.
  - 3. You can accept and go home to live a new life.
- C. You must be willing to serve Christ and follow Him in your situation.

### **Application questions**

1. What explains the condition of man in the world today and all of the suffering around him?

---

---

2. How is there tension with God's holiness and God's love? How is this tension resolved?

---

---

3. What three things must a person do to receive eternal life? Are you ready to make this commitment today or to recommit yourself to God in Jesus Christ?

---

---