

## **Knowing God's Love**

### **By Christian Equippers International**

The purpose of this teaching is to awaken our hearts to the deep affectionate love that God has for each of us and His longing that we would return that love back to Him. Christianity is first and foremost a love story. God created each of us, through love, as special creations with the intent that we would live eternally in a deep committed, affectionate love relationship with Him.

Though we may all agree to this theologically, we are too easily detoured \ from making pursuit of this intimate relationship with God our priority. The pressures of life, our own sense of unworthiness, and a performance mentality are only some of the ditches into which we so easily fall.

There is nothing so spiritually liberating and so emotionally healing as living in a revelation of and a fellowship with the loving heart of God. It is the supreme cure for the confusions, stresses, hurts and fears that come with life on this planet. The purpose of this teaching is to inspire us and guide us into the ultimate pursuit: knowing the love of God.

### **GOD IS OUR FATHER**

"And because you are sons (children), God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts crying Abba, Father (Gal. 4:6)!"

Many of the religions of the world present an impersonal concept of a god that is either an abstract force or one that exists in some state of unapproachable transcendence. The Bible is a record of the efforts of a personal loving creator to make Himself known to a world of men and women whose understanding has been darkened by sin (II Cor. 4: 3,4).

The very instant we are born again by the Holy Spirit we begin our relationship with Him as 'Father.' Like the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32, our heavenly Father has been longing for our return to Him. He welcomes us with joy and compassion and begins to bestow upon us all the blessings that come with being restored to the family of God. The richest blessings flow from coming to know the Father's heart of love for us.

### **OUR DESTINY IN CREATION**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who... chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love (Eph. 1:3,4)."

Before the foundation of the world, the almighty, infinite, all knowing God, whose wisdom and foreknowledge is perfect, conceived us in His heart and

imagination. He determined that human life would be created in His image (Gen. 1:26), living under Him in headship over a new creation, with life-giving potential and the capacity to create within our earthly environment. Unique from other heavenly beings, but like our creator, we share the experience of parenting, nurturing, caring, loving and feeling pain.

We were destined to live before Him in love, fully accepted and enjoyed as precious children whose hearts would be set to please Him and enjoy His fellowship forever.

### **THE HEARTACHE OF THE FALL**

"Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you (Gen. 3:9)?" The first man and woman who were created and set in Eden, a natural paradise (Gen. 1:8-9), disobeyed God's commandment regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Their act of rejection of God brought the consequences of the fall (Gen. 2:17). Their disobedience instantly broke their fellowship with Him and put all of humanity, as well as the natural creation under the authority and dominion of Satan, who had been cast out of heaven because of his own rebellion. The fall of mankind brought us under the power of a fallen nature, with its selfish desires and lusts (Eph. 2:1-3).

Genesis 3:9 is a heartbreaking picture of God, moving through the Garden of Eden, calling out to those He had created to enjoy eternal loving fellowship with Him. Our original destiny, to be "holy and without blame before Him in love," would now have to be restored through the ultimate act of love on the part of the Father: the sacrifice of His own Son.

### **THE ULTIMATE ACT OF LOVE**

"But God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:4-6)."

The dominion of sin and the power of Satan over mankind was broken by Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, being born into this world as a man, living a perfect sinless life, and then giving his life in suffering and sacrifice to pay the debt of divine justice. Because there was no sin in Him, death had no legal hold on Him and He was resurrected by the power of God and then ascended to the throne of God (Heb. 10:12-14).

God's great love for us is shown, not only in Christ's act of redemption, but in His eternal identification with us in our humanity as the second Adam, the beginning of a new creation (I Cor. 15:45, 49).

**\*\*For the rest of this teaching purchase the booklet: Knowing God's Love at [www.equipper.com](http://www.equipper.com)**