

So Loved Part 2

Lavish Love

Steve Berger January 31, 2016

Review from January 24, 2016: Love — what is love?

Love is one of the most misunderstood things, there's an ache to know it. The search for it is expressed in the popular media of today: being loved forever touches us deeply; no one wants to be unloved; where can I go to be loved?

- **God is love — 1 John 4:8**

...God is love.

- love is the very essence of God's being — the very Fount and Source of Who He is and what He does! God is love!

- **Eternally — Jeremiah 31:3**

...The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

- **Sovereignly — Ephesians 2:4-5**

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).

- **Sacrificially — 1 John 4:9-10**

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- **Practically — 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Today: The Lavish Love of God

First — Withholding Love Lie and Wound

- **Genesis 3:1-5**

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

All the way back to Eden, Satan has tried to convince mankind that God ISN'T good, generous, and lavish in His love for us. He has tried to assassinate God's character by portraying Him as a **“withholder”**... “God doesn’t want you to eat the fruit because then your eyes will be opened, you’ll be like Him, He’s withholding from you.”

- “The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands.”¹ Martin Luther

Believe in the lavish love of God, reject withholding love lie and wound!

The Lavish Love of God

There is no place that this is more consolidated than in Ephesians 1.

- **Ephesians 1:2-14**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

10 Proofs of God’s lavish love for us in Christ

1. **Ephesians 1:3** — Blessed with *every* spiritual blessing— EVERY!!! Nothing withheld!

a) **Romans 8:32** — He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (*free and all = LAVISH*).

- 2-4. **Ephesians 1:4** — Chosen, holy, blameless... all through God's love

a) **chosen** — Zephaniah 3:17 — “rejoice over you,” spins around under violent, holy emotion, LAVISH!

b) **holy** — 1 Peter 2:9 — chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.

c) **blameless** — Jude 1:24 — “present us blameless before Presence of glory with exceeding joy”... our exceeding joy AND His!

¹ Jennifer Dukes Lee, *Love Idol*, (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2014), 4

5. **Ephesians 1:5** — Happily adopted — good pleasure of His will

a) **Romans 8:15** — “not spirit of bondage and fear,” Spirit of adoption, we cry “Abba”

6. **Ephesians 1:6** — Accepted, highly favored

a) **Luke 1:28** — “rejoice highly favored one, the Lord is with you.”

7-8. **Ephesians 1:7** — Redeemed, forgiven of sins — through blood of Jesus

a) **redeemed** — full ransom paid for salvation and deliverance... “It is finished”

b) **forgiven of sins** — freedom from sins’ power and penalty

**In God's wisdom He provided an unconditional love,
in His prudence He provided an eternal love,
and in His good pleasure He provided a lavish love!
Ephesians 1:8-9**

9. **Ephesians 1:11** — Inheritance

a) **1 Peter 1:4** — “incorruptible, undefiled, unfading, reserved in heaven”

10. **Ephesians 1:13-14** — Sealed with the Holy Spirit, Who is the guarantee of inheritance, until redemption of purchased possession

a) sealed — signet stamp for security and preservation, until final redemption of purchased possession...

b) **1 John 3:11** — Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

c) **Colossians 3:14** — But above all these things put on love...

d) **Jude 1:21** — keep yourselves in the love of God...

**Being So Loved Is a Lavish Love,
believe it — behold it — put it on — keep yourselves there!**

Discussion Questions

1. Martin Luther said, “The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands.” Do you believe this is true?
2. Is there a place in your life where you believe that God has been “withholding”?
3. In Ephesians 1:2-14, which one of the proofs of God’s lavish loves means the most to you?
4. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. What does it mean that you are sealed with the Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of your inheritance?