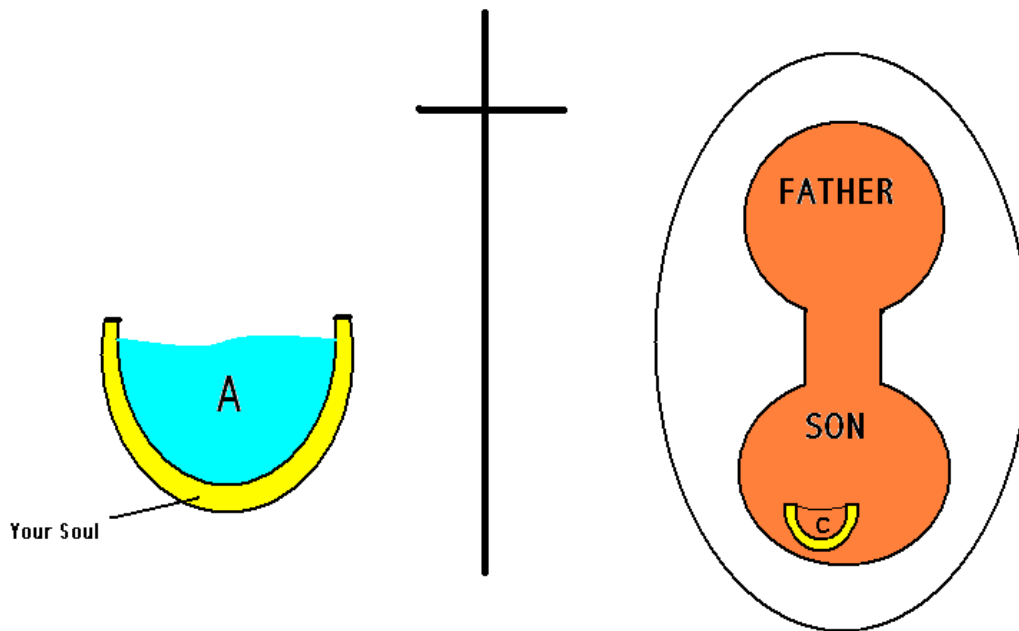


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Love pt. 4



Last week was our third part in a series on love. If you remember last week I had these diagrams up here and was using them to illustrate what I was talking about. I want to probably conclude our series on love this week, and I will be continuing to use these diagrams.

It seemed like this was beginning to click more with some hearts last week, and I want to give the Spirit of God some more time to let this sink into our hearts.

Remember on the left side of this diagram you have the natural man. And in this diagram that natural man is represented as a soul that is the vessel of a nature. That nature is labeled A for Adamic. Now I didn't draw a body over their. Obviously your body then becomes the expression in the natural world for whatever is reality in your soul. But you aren't a body. You are in a body, but you are a soul. I can kill your body. I cannot kill your soul. I don't plan on trying either.

But if you'll remember your soul is the vessel of a nature. And prior to new birth, that adamic nature is the nature and character and kind and seed of your soul. But the old man and the soul are not the same thing. We said that the cross destroys the one and saves the other by making it a partaker of the divine nature.

It is the adamic nature, that kind, that the Bible refers to as the old man. It's the wrong seed, the wrong kind, the rejected one. Your soul, however, is really what and who you are. It is your mind and emotions and will that are influenced and motivated in every way by the nature that is working in you. And by birth, by natural birth, that nature is Adamic.

And we established the fact that prior to new birth and then the renewing of your mind, your soul and your adamic nature are so intermingled that you cannot distinguish them. They are, as far as you are concerned, the same. It's just you, it's how you feel, how you think, how you love or hate or want. It's the only you that you've known. We completely identify with it. We are led by it and become the expression of it in all things. It has become us. There is no ability to differentiate between that kind, that nature and your soul.

And that is why when you come to see the cross you realize the reality, as Paul says, that "I have died". It's the only you that you have known. It's not "I've been changed" It's not "I've gotten my wings". It's not "I've been cleaned up". The only "I" that you have known is destroyed. It's not the annihilation of your soul, but it is the judgment, death, and burial of all that you are by kind, by seed, by nature. And that is a cutting away of you. And yet, your soul is saved. And yet, I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me.

And then over here on the other side of that diagram we have salvation. We have the reality of coming into Christ and into His relationship with the Father. We have a vessel, a soul, that lives in and by Christ. And that is why it is filled with a substance that is labeled "C". Christ all and in all. Christ may fill all things. We have become His body, the fullness of Him who fills all and all. Can you see that there?

And our experience of salvation is the reality of being in that Son. And we mentioned how that is what the Scripture calls "being accepted in the beloved". And yet that acceptance in Him of your soul means the rejection and destruction of all that was formerly in your soul. It demands a judgment, a crucifixion, an annihilation of all that you were according to kind and seed and nature. You do not pack up your adamic suitcases and move into this salvation. Everything of the first collides with the cross and is buried, never to be seen again. You don't bring it with you except in the imaginations of the unrenewed adamic mind. We'll get to that.

In fact, over here in Christ, there is nothing of the flesh. There is, in fact, no Jew or Gentile, or male or female, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free. But...what? But Christ all and in all. But one new man, and He is the life and substance of that soul, of that man. Yes individual souls, but one life. And that is why Paul says there is one body, one faith, one spirit, etc. You can see that here in this diagram.

Now, getting back into love. God has made that one relationship with His Son available to you by His cross. And therein is His definition of love. He has loved you by giving His Son to you. Do you see that? He loved the Son before the foundation of the world. But then...God so loved the world (left side) that He gave you this incredible reality of life and relationship in Son. There is the love of God. And so we said that God loves you by Christ. Or we said that God's love for you is Christ. Here is the love of God.

That love exists as an invitation to the world to come by Him, by His death, into His life. But that love exists for us who are in Him as the giving of all that He is. The lavishing upon our soul of the riches of grace in Christ Jesus.

And I'm mostly just reviewing right now, but again...we said a lot last week and we shouldn't move anywhere until we see it. The love of God is in Christ Jesus. The love of God is Christ Jesus. In Christ is where all that He is and all that He offers is known and experienced.

It is not some independent relationship out here with God. That doesn't correspond to anything in reality. That is an imagination. God loves you individually, but not independently. He loves you individually in Christ, but not apart from the love of God in Christ. The love of God is not a loose emotion that lands on certain people because they believe the right doctrines. The love of God is the reality of life-giving, live-sharing, that is found only in that Son.

Milo said on Friday night that we often act, as Christians, like because we believe in the right doctrines, God accepts and loves and accepts and blesses our old man (left side of diagram) more than our unbelieving neighbor. No. God doesn't accept any old man. But if you and I have truly come to faith (not just conversion to doctrines) then God has dealt with us not by accepting the old, but by destroying it.

Let me say it this way. The love of God is the full giving of life, love, and glory as they are experienced in the sharing of His life, and that is only in Christ and through the cross.

Here is how God loves you. He loves you by taking your soul and destroying everything that was the kind and nature and character of that soul, and then transferring you out of that darkness into the "son of His love". He crucifies the old man. **He does not clean up the old man. He does not forgive the old man. He forgives you by killing the old man. I hope you can hear that. Because forgiveness isn't letting sin go. Forgiveness is removing the cause and source of that sin through death.**

He forgives you, the soul, by killing, judging, the contents of that vessel. He forgives you by removing the cause, the source through the death of His Son. When one died, all died. Lets not make forgiveness into a giant sponge bath. There was blood involved. **And Christ didn't die instead of you. Christ died as you and on behalf of you. There is a difference. When the Bible says "Christ died for you" it doesn't mean "instead of you", it means "on behalf of you". There is all the difference in the world. In the one you don't die. But in the other He brings you into His death, a death you never could have died.** But we'll leave that alone for now.

The diagram. On the one hand you have the adamic nature, the old man, the nature of sin. On the other hand you have the new man Christ. One is rejected, the other is accepted. **Which one are you? You are the soul.** You are the expression of one or the other.

And that's true, although we said that you are indistinguishable from that seed and that kind until new birth.

And this is where we misunderstand the love of God. We look at Bible verses about God's love and we demand in our hearts that God accept this blue substance (the A) here, and he does not. And that is the only "me" that most people know. They want to be loved of God. They want to feel like He loves and appreciates them as they are. And yet he offered a cross, a death, to deal with what they are by nature. He's not rejected your soul. **He's actually offering salvation to your soul by rejecting your kind.** Offering a new kind in exchange for that adamic seed. Offering you beauty for ashes. And in the ignorance and arrogance of our hearts, we demand that he accept our ashes.

He does not accept that first man. Though He will love your soul by giving you the second Man. The old man is rejected but the soul is saved. The soul is transferred. The kind is destroyed. The soul is saved.

Galatians 2:20 (looking at diagram) I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me.

Must of what we're going to do from here on out is to gather up handful of other verses and look at them in light of this diagram. I think that will be helpful. But first let me just say something.

The only thing that is brought over from the first into the second is a soul that operates by an unrenewed mind. Can you see that. The soul brings its "muscle memory" over into Christ. The soul, having partaken of new Life, but still operating in the futility of an old mind. Not seeing what is NOW in Christ. A soul that must be shown by His Spirit all that is NOW IN CHRIST. "But now in Christ"...the great proclamation of the New Covenant.

In reality, in the view of God, that nature couldn't be more dead and buried. And yet in the unrenewed man, the carnal mind, we bring over into Christ our comprehension of who we used to be. Nothing of his Adam's nature makes it across, only his blindness. And so we must be "renewed in the spirit of our mind" that we "might know the things that have been freely given to us by God". We must have the "Spirit of Truth take the things of Christ and reveal them to us". Now we are "coming to know even as we are known". We are coming to "apprehend that for which we have been apprehended by God"

We are here (right side) in Christ and yet trying to relate to God and one another according to what we once were. According to Adam's comprehension. And that is why I said several times "you are not even the person that you are demanding God to love except in the imagination of your own unrenewed mind". Now can you see that here? Its not that God doesn't love you. Its just that you have no comprehension, in the natural mind, of how He already has loved you. And you and I demand that He accept what He has rejected, rather than come to see that you are already in the One who is accepted. That's a mouthful, but its true.

Ok, well part of my searching this all out in the Scripture involved printing off this list of Scripture verses that had to do with love. And while we have this diagram in front of us, while we're still looking at it, I wanted to look at just a handful of those verses. Lets try to see them in light of all of this.

John 17:23 – Jesus is praying "Father I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Can you see there that Jesus isn't just saying that You feel about them the same way You feel about Me, but is in reality saying that the very same love, the sharing of eternal spiritual life that has been going on with me before the foundation of the world, you are now granting them. You are granting them the love wherewith you share all that you are, and all that we share between us. I in them, and You in Me, perfected in One. What is that? One denomination? One set of doctrines and creeds? No, one life.

How does that happen? One big church building? One big conference? No, one body, one spirit, one life.

Joh 17:24 Father, I desire that those whom You have given Me, that they may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me, for You have loved Me before the foundation of the world.

"May be with me where I am". Now listen, that's not in some geographic location. That is in this life, this union, this eternal relationship with the Father. And he wants those who are there to share the glory, to know the glory and the love that He and the Father have shared since before the foundation of the world. Father you have loved Me before the Foundation of the world. Now I desire that they be drawn into that eternal love. That eternal relationship.

Jesus says in John 17:3 "For this is eternal life, that you know the Father and Jesus Christ whom He has sent".

This is the "place that he prepared for you". He went away into death for three days to make a place for you. Not by sweeping the floor and putting your name on a mailbox. No by removing and destroying the seed and kind that kept you from being joined to Him. He made a place for you in His Father by destroying the enmity through His flesh. He made a place for you by putting death to death that those who would live by Him would be where He was.

And then he came again unto them in the resurrection. And in that day they saw, they began to know that where He is, there they are also. I'm in the Father, you're in me and I'm in you.

I can't help myself, lets just look briefly at John 14.

Joh 14:1 Do not let your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In **My Father's house** are many dwelling places. But if it were not *so*, I would have told you. I am going to **prepare a place for you!** **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.** **4** And where I go you know, and the way you know. **5** Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You go, and how can we know the way? **6** Jesus said to him, **I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me. **7** If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you do know Him, and have seen Him. **8** And Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is

enough for us. **9** Jesus said to him, Am I so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? **The one seeing Me has seen the Father! And how do you say, Show us the Father?... 18** I will not leave you orphans; I am coming to you. **19 Yet a little while and the world no longer sees Me, but you see Me. Because I live, you also shall live. 20 In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.**

I realize that that Scripture is used at funerals to describe something that has yet to come. We make it future because of our ignorance of what He has accomplished. But friends, that Scripture is talking about the reality of salvation in Christ. And if knowing that Christ is in the Father and we are in Him, and He is in you is something that will only happen in the future, then what in the world is the entire New Testament about that does nothing but proclaim that reality to be now in Christ.

Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."

Now here is a verse that has been terribly disfigured by the natural mind. But again, in comprehending the cross you can comprehend this verse. Jacob and Esau are not the two individuals here. Look at the context of Romans 9. He's talking about Israel after the flesh and Israel after the Spirit. Look at it. He's talking about the first and the second. He's talking about the second taking the birthright of the first. Look at the context. And then he brings this verse into it, much like he does in Galatians 4 where he says Hagar and Sarah represent two covenants. Not two individual humans that God likes one and hates the other one.

Jacob, the Son of His Father's love. The Son who, clothed himself in the garments of the first Son, like Christ, clothed Himself in the garments of Adam, in order to bring forth Israel. And the love there being the inheritance, the Father's blessing. We can't go into all of that now. But just look at the diagram. Here (right) is the chosen Son. Here is the Jacob that is loved of God. Here, on the left, is the Esau. Here is the children of the flesh, the natural seed that is rejected of God. The one is the Son of His love. The other is the one who is displeasing to the father. The one is accepted, the other is rejected. It is the same with Cain and Able, Isaac and Ishmael, Rachel and Leah, Saul and David. It is never about God having certain feelings and one individual over against another. It is always the displaying of the one accepted and loved Son, the accepted Seed verses the rejected Seed.

And we become accepted in that one accepted Seed. We are chosen by coming to live in the Chosen One. We become accepted in Christ. That is what Galatians 3 is talking about. It talks about promises made to the Seed. It says in Galatians 3:16 "It does not say seeds, but seed, just one, that is Christ". But then it goes on to say at the end of that chapter that we have all become partakers of that one Seed and so we are the Seed of God and here is according to promise. Can you hear what I'm saying. I'm saying there has only ever been one accepted Son, one Son of His love, and we are now loved individually in Him. Not apart from Him. No, apart from Him we are Esau. But in Him we are Jacob. In Him, as Paul says in Galatians 4, we are Isaac.

Ok, lets look at a few more verses;

1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him,

1Jo 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.

1Jo 4:9 In this the love of God was revealed in us, because God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him.

1Jo 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation concerning our sins.

1Jo 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1Jo 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

I'm running out of time, but let me just close with a few thoughts. How do you come to know the love of God? Not by being taught a doctrine. Not by even watching a healing or feeling His presence. You'll come to doubt it in no time. You come to know the love of God when the Son of His love is revealed in you.

The love of God is not just a certain way that he feels about you, it is a Son, a life that He has given you. You cannot truly know that love until you see that Son. What God has given to you must be revealed in you for you to know it.