

It Is All About Love

(The Properties Of Love)

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Scripture Text: Hebrews 11:7

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Introduction:

There are a few ways that we know that someone loves us. They are centered around the way they do the things that they do, and the things that they do not do. The way God deals with us, his lowly creation, gives us a glimpse into the mind of God. It helps us understand and appreciate His qualities, and His attributes. To understand God we must look into His heart. The only way we can do that at this time in our history is to look into His word. For in the Word is found all things that pertain to life and godliness. In his word we understand God. You see, “all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Timothy 3:16-17)

Let’s look at the way God dwelt with one man, and this will help us see how God deals with all men. In our text we read about such a man. His name was Noah. Noah was a man of faith. He is mentioned several times in scripture. Each time it talks about Noah’s faith and his obedience to God. Those two things go hand in hand. Faith and obedience. A songwriter once wrote; “Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey. Faith in God is a two way communication. God is and we believe. We trust His presence, His power and His promises. Our trust is the vehicle that drives our obedience. Without obedience faith is dead. It was James that wrote: “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (James 2:17) To explain himself he said: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22) The Hebrew writer testifies to Noah’s faith by saying; “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)

God dwelt with Noah on a level that can only be classified as love. (Consider John 3:16) The way God deals with Noah is the way He deals with us. Let us together look at the way God shows His love. Let’s see how a soft spoken God can shout out His love to generations to come. I call these the “properties of Love.” Let’s look at three of them:

Love Is Longsuffering

The Apostle Peter writes: "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." (I Peter 3:20) It is true that man is sometimes disobedient. This was the case in the days of Noah. Man was so disobedient that it made God sad that He had created man. Man's wickedness was such that God had to do something about it. "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (Acts 11:30) God looked for a glimmer of hope among a hopeless people, and Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

God's longsuffering caused Him to warn Noah of the pending destruction to come. His longsuffering caused God to wait for one-hundred and twenty years while the ark was being prepared. His longsuffering caused God to witness to the wicked generation through the preaching and teaching of a faithful servant and his family. God suffers longs. He waits, and warn, and waits on us to change. God's love is longsuffering.

Love Is Loyal

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." (Hebrews 11:7)

Love does not leave you hanging. If you need counsel, it is there. If you need to be challenged, it is there. If you need encouragement, it is there. The love of God is loyal. God warned Noah. God's love also charged Noah to preach to others. He was to tell them of their behavior, and warn them of the punishment for sins. "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 3:23)

God gave Noah time to finish the ark. A loyal God will give us counsel and then allow us time and space to determine our course of action. Noah chose to obey God. It meant disrupting his whole lifestyle, but Noah obeyed God.

Noah realized that his first responsibility was to self. (Work out your own soul's salvation with fear and trembling) Secondly, he was responsible to his family, his wife and children. And then finally, to all those he came in contact with. Noah showed his loyalty by being committed to God's word, His will and His way.

Love Is Lasting:

In our fast paced world nothing seems to last forever. Relationship falter, promises fade. Things that once stood the test of time, seem to fade from the mind. Nothing seems to last. Technology has placed our lives in a fast pace. People don't hold on to things anymore. Old songs are replaced by new one. Old friends give place to new one. Even our old dreams seem to step aside so that tomorrow's dreams may arise.

But, there is still one thing that we can place our trust in. There is one thing that will not change. That is the Love of God. God changes not. His love endures to the end. It never fades. Peter wrote: "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;" (II Peter 2:5) God is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all mankind come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)

God's love never fails or falters. (I Corinthians 13:8) His love is always there. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will be with us "even until the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20)

CONCLUSION:

Love is the greatest emotion. It is defined in scripture. (I Corinthians 13) Love is longsuffering. Love is loyal to the object of its love. And, love is lasting. God shows us these attributes and more. When you walk with God, you are going in the right direction. God shows us the attributes of love. Do you want to experience His great love. You can. Become a child of God?