

Sermon Notes  
Really? - Rom 5:8  
June 28, 2020

I. Introduction

- a. you are the apple of God's eye... you are the light of His life... He holds you dear... you are cherished and treasured by Him over all other things...  
Deut 32:10 MSG... "found him in the wilderness... in empty wasteland... threw arms around him... lavished attention... guarding him as apple of His eye..."  
Zech 2:8... "anyone who harms you harms my most precious possession..."
- b. God loves you... *really, yes, really*... many people don't know how to respond to that... not what they're used to... can you really know for sure... pray...

II. Really

- a. anyone who doesn't understand bible sometimes... because of veil...  
Acts 28:26-27... "you will not understand... your hearts are hardened..."  
1Cor 13:7-13... "spoke, understood, thought as child... see thru glass darkly..."  
2Cor 3:5-18... "minds were blinded... veil remains... only removed in Christ..."
- b. two important keys to understanding scripture... ask HS to help...  
John 16:13... "when HS comes... He will guide you into all truth..."  
Acts 8:30-31... "do you understand... how can I unless someone guides..."  
1Cor 2:14-16... "person without HS can't understand God's truth..."  
Gal 1:12... "not receive from man, not taught... came by revelation of Jesus..."
- c. know that all scripture is really instruction about Jesus...  
Luke 24:13-35... "interpreted things concerning Himself in all Scripture..."  
Acts 10:43... "He is the One all the Prophets testified about..."  
Acts 28:23-24... "persuaded them concerning Jesus from Law and Prophets..."
- d. when you read scripture thru lens of cross... becomes super clear... does God really love me... answer is in Word, not emotions, feelings, *etp*...  
1Cor 1:18-31... "message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction... but it is the power of God to us who are being saved..."  
1Cor 2:2... "determined to know nothing... other than Jesus crucified..."
- e. one English, four Greek words for love... NT is 80% agape... 20% phileo...  
unconditional love is who God is... can't be anything else... *He is love*...  
phileo - deep, abiding friendship...  
eros - erotic, sexual love (not used in NT)...  
storge - natural, familial love (not in bible)...  
agape - self-sacrificing; always associated with God; will, not emotion...  
John 3:16... "God so loved (v - well pleased) you... He gave His Son..."  
Eph 2:1-5... "because of His great love (n)... He loved us (v)... made us alive..."  
1John 4:8-16... "God is love (n)... He loved us (v)... sent His Son..."

The greatest unkindness you can do to the Father is to not believe He loves you.  
God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love. Augustine

- f. most people who don't really believe God loves them base that on feelings or circumstances... makes God schizo (*He loves me, He loves me not, He loves me*)... no conditions, no repentance, no confession, no need to clean up... just love...  
Rom 5:8... "God proves His love... when we were sinners... Jesus died for us..."  
1John 3:16... "this is how we know real love... Jesus gave His life for us..."
- g. in some ways... trying to preach God loves you is actually useless/ineffective...  
Eph 3:19... "pray you would know Messiah's love that surpasses knowledge..."  
NLT... "may you experience love of Christ... too great to understand fully..."  
GNT... "may you know His love... although it can never be fully known..."  
NCV... "Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know..."
- h. preach and pray... greatest thing you could ever know... can't receive above and beyond what you ask or think until you know how much God loves you...  
Eph 3:16-21... "pray you be rooted and firmly established in love... pray you have power to understand length, width, height, depth of God's love... pray you be filled with fullness of God... do above and beyond all we ask or think..."  
Col 1:9... "haven't stopped praying... to be filled with knowledge of His will..."
- i. all of what you and I need starts with knowing how much God loves you...  
Prov 10:12... "hate stirs up trouble... but love forgives all offenses..."  
Rom 8... "more than conquerors... nothing separate us from God's love..."  
Col 3:14... "put on love... which is the perfect bond of unity..."  
1John 4:7-21... "love one another... love comes from God... know and believe love God has... perfect love drives out fear... we love because He loves..."
- j. have you ever done anything dumb... like these decisions... often we believe God stops loving us when we sin... God still loves them and still loves you... His love is not based on what you do, but who He is...  
Rom 4:8... "happy is man against whom no sin is recorded by the Lord..."  
2Cor 5:19... "God is no longer counting people's sins against them..."  
1John 2:2... "He is sacrifice for our sins... not only ours... but whole world..."
- k. like that bridge... the cross obliterated your sins... no video to condemn you...  
Isa 43:25... "I take away your sins... for My sake... I won't remember..."  
Rom 5:1-9... "have peace thru Jesus... proves His love by Christ dying..."  
1Cor 13:4-8... "love keeps no record of wrongs..."  
Heb 8:12; 10:17... "I will never again remember their sins..."
- l. *yeah, but what about this or that sin*... yeah, what about it... God's love never fails and His love is forever and ever... nothing can separate you from it...  
Psa 23:6... "goodness and faithful love will hunt me down all my life..."  
Jer 31:3... "I have loved you with an everlasting love... continue to love you..."  
owlam... antiquity, futurity; forever and ever; always; continuous, unending, eternity...  
Rom 8:31-39... "nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God..."
- m. does God really love me... yes, really... loves unlovely, unlovable, unloving... no strings attached... has to be unconditional or we have no hope...
- n. message shocks me... after 2000 years, do we really still need to be told God loves us... yes, more than anything... need to be reminded often... pray...  
Psa 94:18-19... "I am slipping... but your unfailing love supports me..."  
Isa 43:1-13... "I will be with you when you go thru difficulty... I love you..."  
Zeph 3:17... "with His love... He will calm all your fears... rejoice over you..."

## He First Loved Us

1John 4:19... *we love because He first loved us...*

There is no light in the plant but that which proceedeth from the sun, and there is no true love to Jesus in the heart but that which cometh from the Lord Jesus Himself.

From this **overflowing fountain of the infinite love of God**, all our love to God must spring. This must ever be a great and certain truth, that we love Him for no other reason than because **He first loved us**. Our love to Him is the fair offspring of His love to us.

Cold admiration, when studying the works of God, anyone may have, but the warmth of love can only be kindled in the heart by God's Spirit. How great the wonder that such as we should ever have been brought to love Jesus at all!

How marvelous that when we had rebelled against Him, He should, by a **display of such amazing love**, seek to draw us back. No, never should we have had a grain of love towards God unless it had been sown in us by the sweet seed of His love to us.

**Love, then, has for its parent the love of God** shed abroad in the heart... but after it is thus divinely born, it must be divinely nourished. Love is an exotic. It is not a plant which will flourish naturally in human soil... it **must be watered from above**.

Love to Jesus is a flower of a delicate nature, and if it received no nourishment but that which could be drawn from the rock of our hearts it would soon wither.

As love comes from heaven, so it must feed on heavenly bread. It cannot exist in the wilderness unless it be fed by manna from on high. **Love must feed on love**. The very soul and life of our love to God is His love to us.

I love thee, Lord, but with no love of mine, for I have none to give. I love thee, Lord, but all the love is Thine, for by Thy love I live.

Charles Spurgeon  
Morning and Evening Devotional – June 11<sup>th</sup>

## Sermon Study

Really - Rom 5:8 - June 28, 2020

1. Do you believe you are the **apple of God's eye**? Why or why not? Read **Deut 32:10** and **Zech 2:8**.
2. Is it sometimes **hard to understand** the bible? Why do you think that is? Read **Acts 28:26-27... 1Cor 13:7-13... 2Cor 3:5-18**. Is there any way we can **understand it better**? Read **John 16:13... Acts 8:30-31... 1Cor 2:14-16... Gal 1:12**. What should we be looking for? Read **Luke 24:13-35... Acts 10:43... Acts 28:23-24**. How have you seen that be true in your life?
3. Do you **believe God loves you**? What is that **based on**? Emotions... feelings... experience, tradition, and preference... or something else? Read **John 3:16... Eph 2:1-5... 1John 4:8-16... Rom 5:8... 1John 3:16**. What do you have to do to get God to love you?
4. Read **Eph 3:16-21**. Why do you think it was so important for Paul to pray that you **know God's love**? What does that do for you? Read **Prov 10:12... Rom 8:31-39... Col 3:14... 1John 4:7-21**.
5. God's love for you is not based on what you do, but **who He is**. Explain. But what happens to that love when you **do something wrong**? Read **Rom 4:8... 2Cor 5:19... 1John 2:2... Isa 43:25... Rom 5:1-9... 1Cor 13:4-8... Heb 8:12... Heb 10:17**. How does that knowledge bring you peace?
6. What can **separate you** from God's love? Read **Psa 23:6... Jer 31:3... Rom 8:31-39**. How long will God's love for you last? **Are you able** to separate yourself from His love... or are you nothing?
7. Read **Psa 94:18-19... Isa 43:1-13... Zeph 3:17**. Why do you think we need to be **reminded of His love**?

Read entire passages to get full context. See sermon notes for more info.