

Dwell

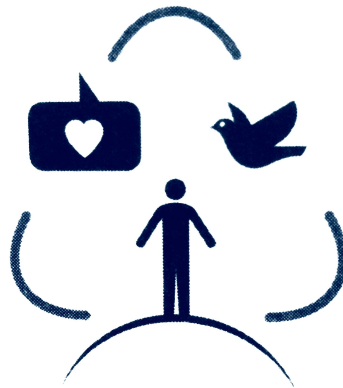
How can I know God loves me?

[THE TRINITY - Part 2]

Recap...



GOD IS Father, Son & Spirit united in love.



God is love because he has eternally been loving. By completely free grace, and out of no need in himself, he draws us into his perfect eternal love, giving us complete security.

The heart of knowing God's love is _____ .

Wonderful implications of God being trinity...

(1) Knowing & Loving God

* God is personal and relational (John 17:24) - *"you loved me before the creation of the world"*

* The atonement is just (2 Corinthians 5:19; Matthew 1:23; Colossians 1:19-20; 2:9) - *"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them."*

"Divine love triumphed over divine wrath by divine sacrifice."

"Divine self-satisfaction through divine self-substitution."

"The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone."

"We have to acknowledge our nakedness, see the divine substitute wearing our filthy rags instead of us, and allow him to clothes us with his own righteousness."

John Stott, *The Cross of Christ* (pp159-163)

* Salvation is glorious! (John 17:26; Romans 5:5; Colossians 3:3) - *"that the love you have for me may be in them"*

DISCUSS: Pick one of the above - how does this change the way you feel about God?

(2) Understanding Humanity

* Relationships matter (Genesis 1:27) - *"God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."*

* Love means self-giving (1 Thessalonians 2:8) - *"we loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you"*

"Love means making another person's happiness the source of your own happiness."
John Piper

* Worth is not determined by role or position (Philippians 2:6-11) - *"taking the nature of a servant"*

DISCUSS: Pick one of the above - think of a situation next week where understanding this will change the way you treat somebody.

(3) Living the Christian Life

* Prayer is wonderful (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7) - *"the full rights of sons"*

* Submission is godly (John 4:34; 6:38; 7:16; Mark 14:26; Ephesians 5:21-6:9; 1 Peter 2:11-3:8) - *"Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

* Diverse unity is possible (John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:3; Revelation 7:9-10) - *"that they may be one as we are one"*

DISCUSS: Pick one of the above - how will this change your attitude to that topic?