

Love – A Hallmark Characteristic

Wednesday, July 31

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What is God like? Who is He?

EXODUS 34:5-7 (CSB)

The Lord came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed his name, “the Lord.” The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: The Lord – the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.

When you read the passage above, what tends to get most of your attention?

POINT – This passage reveals a great deal about the nature & character of God. The iniquities of the parents may affect the family for three or four generations. But the Lord maintains faithful love for a thousand generations. We see a ratio of 4 to 1,000. That’s 1:250.

Verse six describes the Lord’s essence, His character. And it’s all about compassion, grace, love, faithfulness, and forgiveness. This is who God is. He is love.

1 JOHN 4:7-10 (CSB)

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

PAUSE TO REFLECT

Questions:

- Do you think people struggle most to believe that they are sinners in need of salvation, or that God is love and that He loves them unconditionally? Why do you think this?
- How do you think our perception of who God is impacts how we choose to respond to and relate with him?
- How does it impact how we choose to respond to and relate with others?

Love and Punishment

Balanced Love