

Herein is God's Love.

1John 4:9 - 11 *“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”*

The words “herein is love” V. 10 is not just love, but it defines a real love, a true love, a love that can never fail, this love is God's love. This love is a particular love that inheres in God's nature, it is divine love. This word “love” in V. 10 is from the Greek word *agapē* (ag-ah'-pay) and it means – is a declaration of the mode in which God's love has been manifested to us. If one is not saved then they have no love of God in their heart, as Jesus described in **John 5:40 - 42** *“And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. (41) I receive not honour from men. (42) But I know you, **that ye have not the love of God in you.**”* Or you do not have agape love. No lost person has the love of God in them. That love only comes when The Holy Spirit draws us to Jesus, and we believe. Herein is love, that because we have God's love in our hearts, “as He is, so are we in this world.” Our love is not our own, it is God's love given to us. It is best defined in **1 John 4:15 - 17** *“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. (16) And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (17) Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”* The natural heart does not love God because all people are born at enmity toward God. God said of man, **Romans 3:10 – 12** *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”* This is why God said in **1 John 4:10** *“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* No natural person will ever love God unless God loves him first.

A. Jesus is our “propitiation” because of God's love.

1. What does this word “propitiation” mean?

a. Strong's defines it as meaning – atonement – however Vines adds the meaning as - mercy-seat – which means - the covering of the ark of the covenant.

- b. We need to see it as “by which God shows mercy to sinners by or through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His death on the cross by the shedding of His blood in His substitutionary sacrifice for our sin.
 - c. Herein is the love of God shown to us who are saved. But not to the lost world who are at enmity with God.
2. In God showing His love to us, He appointed His Beloved Son as our Saviour.
- a. **Romans 3:24 - 25** “*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*” The word “forbearance” means – a selfrestraint, or tolerance.
 - b. Vines defines it as – a holding back – “it represents a suspense of wrath which must eventually be exercised unless the sinner accepts God's conditions” Therefore Vines goes on to say, “here it is connected with the passing over of sins in times past, previous to the atoning work of Christ.” – Herein is the love of God...that He loved us. And because He loved us this much, we love Him because of this very act of grace.
3. Because Jesus is the propitiation of God, we are accepted as righteousness.
- Ephesians 5:2** “*And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*”
- a. Albert Barnes said, “*The meaning here is, that the offering which Christ made of himself to God, was like the grateful and pleasant smell of “incense,” that is, it was acceptable to him.*”
 - b. **Romans 5:8 - 9** “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*”
- B. Jesus is our “propitiation” because God hates sin.
- 1. No sin is acceptable to God, God hates sin. **Psalms 11:5** “*The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.*”
 - a. What is the difference between the righteous and the wicked? Jesus Christ.

- b. God's love to those that are saved is His own Son as our propitiation, it pleased God to give His love to us through His Son.
- 2. God will destroy the wicked, He hates them, He has zero love for them. **Psalms 5:4 - 5** *"For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. (5) The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."*
- 3. **Proverbs 6:16-19** *"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."* – God not only hates these sins, He hates those that commit them.
 - A. **Romans 1:23 - 25** *"And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."*
 - B. God will not punish sin, but rather the sinner because He hates them. **Romans 1:32** *"Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."*
- C. But to us who are saved, God sent His Son to redeem us.
 - 1. **John 3:16 - 17** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*
 - 2. **Romans 5:8 - 9** *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*
 - 3. **Ephesians 2:7 - 8** *"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"*