

A GOD WHO IS RIGHTEOUS

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The Bible says very little about The Love of God. The Love of God is normally addressed to believers.

The Apostle John encouraged believers to carry on believing.

1 John 3:1-2

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now we are children of God;** and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, (because we are family!!) for we shall see Him as He is.

1 John 3:1 AMPLIFIED

SEE WHAT [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognise, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognise, acknowledge) Him.

We get to call God "Abba Father". Intimate love, special love.

1 John 3:1 THE VOICE

Consider the kind of extravagant love the Father has lavished on us— He calls us children of God! It's true; we are His beloved children. And in the same way the world didn't recognise Him, the world does not recognise us either.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, **because of His great love with which He loved us,** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together

with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees (prays) to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, (the God Family) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-18 THE MESSAGE BIBLE

that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights!

John 15:5-11

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (We can't produce fruit on our own - we need to Abide in Christ) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, (Jamie: "If you don't ... you won't!!) just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:7-8 AMPLIFIED

If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honoured and glorified, and you show and prove yourselves to be true followers of Mine.

John 16:25-28

“These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for **the Father Himself loves you, (phileo) because you have loved Me**, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

Within the family, there is love.

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

For us, as believers, we should understand somewhat about The Love of God.

Hosea 9:15

"All their wickedness is in Gilgal,

For there I hated them.

Because of the evil of their deeds

I will drive them from My house; (banish them)

I will love them no more.

All their princes are rebellious.

Definitely true that God is Love ... but ... is that His only trait?

This characteristic of God "trumps His Love" ... **GOD IS RIGHTEOUS!!**

What does that mean? We don't hear a great deal about this word in our society today. Let's look at some scriptures.

Romans 11:22

Therefore **consider the goodness and severity of God:** on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Romans 11:22 NET BIBLE

Notice therefore **the kindness and harshness of God** - harshness toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness toward you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

How can an all-loving God be severe? What's it all about? God is righteous.

Psalms 89:11-16

The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours;

The world and all its fullness, You have founded them.

The north and the south, You have created them;

Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Your name.

You have a mighty arm;

Strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; (the way
God rules the university ... how He governs)

Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!
They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance.
In Your name they rejoice all day long,
And in Your righteousness they are exalted.

Psalms 71:12-19

O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!
Let them be confounded and consumed
Who are adversaries of my life;
Let them be covered with reproach and dishonour
Who seek my hurt.
But I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.

My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness

And Your salvation all the day,
For I do not know their limits.
I will go in the strength of the Lord God;

I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

O God, You have taught me from my youth;
And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.
Now also when I am old and grayheaded,
O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to this generation,
Your power to everyone who is to come.

Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high.

You who have done great things;
O God, who is like You?

Psalms 71:24

My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long;

For they are confounded,
For they are brought to shame

Who seek my hurt.

A righteous being must do what is right. A righteous God must deal with all evil.

Isaiah 11:1-5

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, (The Lord Jesus)
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The Spirit of counsel and might,

The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

His delight is in the fear of the Lord,

And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,

Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,

And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,

And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,

And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

What does it mean, "God is righteous"? It means God is right. He cannot do anything wrong. Absolutely fair. Absolutely just. God always does what should be done with no partiality and no prejudice. God cannot lie. God cannot have a wrong thought. God is absolutely perfectly right ... always!!

Romans 3:1-4

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles

of God. For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the

faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true

but every man a liar. (God will always proven to be true ... to be right)

As it is written:

"That You may be justified in Your words,

And may overcome when You are judged."

GOD IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!! He will not allow wrongdoing to go **unpunished!!** As a righteous God, He must deal with evil. Everything that is wrong, must be dealt with.

In the world, in this life, there is often no justice. Many wrongdoers never face justice ... in this life. In the big picture ... **NOBODY GETS AWAY WITH ANYTHING. GOD HAS A RECORD OF IT ALL.** Everyone will be held to account. He will deal with all wrongdoing. He is not an accomplice!! God will deal with it. **Justice must be done and be seen to be done.**

God isn't just "all loving". He is also righteous. He will judge evil.

Psalms 96:1-3

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news (gospel) of His salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.

Psalms 96:10-13

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns;
The world also is firmly established,
It shall not be moved;
He shall judge the peoples righteously."
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;
Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it.
Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord.
For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.
He shall judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with His truth.

God has to deal with every aspect of evil.

Psalms 97:1-6

The Lord reigns;
Let the earth rejoice;
Let the multitude of isles be glad!
Clouds and darkness surround Him;

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

A fire goes before Him,
And burns up His enemies round about.

His lightnings light the world;
The earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord,
At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare His righteousness,

And all the peoples see His glory.

Psalms 98:1-3

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!
For He has done marvellous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.
The Lord has made known His salvation;

His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalms 98:7-9

Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell in it;
Let the rivers clap their hands;
Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord,
For He is coming to judge the earth.

With righteousness He shall judge the world,

And the peoples with equity.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting,
because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all

abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is **manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God**, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since **it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you**, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**. These shall be punished with everlasting (complete ... irreversible) destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

God's justice WILL BE PERFECT!!

Romans 2:4-9

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart **you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds"**: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

God is Love ... not just Love ... but also righteous. He must ensure that justice is done.

For some people His righteousness is good news ... but to others it is not. God will deal with every wrongdoing. God's justice will be perfect.