

The Doctrines of Grace

Here are some examples of the very important but difficult questions many Christians face when trying to understand the Love of God and His plan for salvation:

"If God loves all the people in the world, why does he only save a handful?"

"If God had the power to save the world, why didn't he?"

"How is it that God, who is the God of Love, and tells us that we are to love our enemies and each other, says, 'Jacob have I loved, Esau have I hated.' Is this not a contradiction?"

"If you have the 'elect' - does that mean God doesn't love anyone/everyone?"

"Does God love everyone or just the called ones?"

To set the framework to answer these difficult questions, one must take a look at the different aspects of God's Love:

The peculiar love of the Father for the Son, and of the Son for the Father.

John 3:35; 5:20; 14:31

God's providential love over all that He has made.

Ps. 145:15-16; Mat. 6:26,28

God's compassionate love for all the lost in the fallen world.

Ezek. 33:11; John 3:16; 1 John 2:2

God's particular, effective, selecting love toward His elect.

Deut. 7:7-8; 10:14-15; Mal. 1:2-3; Eph. 5:25

God's love toward His chosen people conditioned on obedience.

John 15:9-10; Ps. 103:17-18; Jude 21