

“The Love of God that Chooses Sinners” ♦ Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52 ♦ Rev. John M. Fraiser ♦ July 24, 2011

- I. *God is under no obligation to show us love.* The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sacrifices all he has to buy the whole field out of joy (not obligation) (Matthew 13:44).
- II. *God never shows love to people based on who they are. His love is always based on who he is.* “It was not because you were...but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore...” (Deut 7:7-8).
  - A. His love is always shown to rebellious sinners who neither seek him nor want him.
    1. Israel was not his people, but he made them his people (Deut 7:6).
    2. He remained faithful even when they were unfaithful (Entire OT).
  - B. God, in his love, justifies us and makes us people who are lovely. “Those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified” (Romans 8:30). “The love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it” (Martin Luther, “Heidelberg Disputation” Thesis 28).
- III. *God’s love is not to be identified with an emotion, but with gracious acts toward sinners.*
  - A. He makes us his treasured possession (Deut 7:6).
  - B. In love, he conforms us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).
  - C. He makes us his children (Romans 8:29).
  - D. He makes us conquerors over enemies (the world, the sin nature, and the Devil) (Deut 7:8; Romans 8:31).
- IV. *God’s love is greater and more powerful than all things.*
  - A. Nothing can separate his children from it (Romans 8:31).
  - B. The all-powerful love of God is why Paul can say that all things that happen to his people, God is working them for their good (Romans 8:28).

**Application:**

1. Knowing that God doesn’t find anything in us that causes him to love us should lead us to humility and to show mercy and love to others who do not love us.
2. We should get our understanding of what love is from the demonstration of God’s love, rather than bringing our preconceived views about love to judge the quality and expression of God’s love.
3. When we refuse to trust God’s forgiveness, we are saying that we do not want God’s love unless he finds something worthy in us.