

ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD

A. DOES GOD LOVE ME?

John 3:16 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.

John 16:27 For the Father himself loveth _____, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

8 But God commendeth his love _____, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who _____, and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith _____ loved us,

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved _____, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Ephesians 6:23 Peace be to the brethren, and **love** with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

II Thessalonians 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which _____ us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

I John 3:1 Behold, what manner _____ the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

I John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the _____ of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

I John 4:9 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.

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.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

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.

It is quite evident from Scripture that God indeed does love us. If a Christian firmly holds to the Scripture during times of discouragement, they should never be moved, because God did not declare just once in the Scriptures that He loved them, but has many times stated so.

B. WHY DOES GOD LOVE ME?

Many times Christians still get discouraged about whether God loves them or not. This is usually caused by them trying to find something about them that would cause God to love them. When they begin to focus on themselves, they fail to find anything worthy of his love and hence become insecure.

1. God's love is not based on who you are or what you have or have not done, but is based on what God is. The Scripture says that God is love.

I John 4: 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**.

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.

Since God is love, then as long as God remains the same, then God will keep loving us. The Scripture says that God will never change.

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I _____;
therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ _____ yesterday, and
to day, and for ever.

So, we can conclude from Scripture, that whether we are successful or not at living our new Christian life, God will still love us, because God is love, and He never changes.

2. Some may ask the question: "How can God still love us, even after we have sinned?" Let's consider two passages of Scripture:

I John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Remember: Propitiation is the appeasing of wrath or violent anger. When a person trusts Christ as their savior, Jesus Christ appeases the wrath that God has toward them. No longer will they ever be the object of God's wrath due to sin.

Luke 15:11-19 - This passage of Scripture is about a man that had two sons, one of which required the father to give him of his deserved inheritance. He then wasted these riches on riotous living. When all the wealth was gone and the young son fell into poverty, he decided to return to his father in hopes of receiving a position as a servant. The passage below shows what happened when he returned home.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

From these Scriptures we can understand that God is no longer filled with wrath because of a Christian's sin, and as the loving father received his wayward son, so God will receive all who come to him. His love enables him to look past our sin and still love us.

C. HOW LONG WILL GOD LOVE ME?

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will _____ thee, nor forsake thee.

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an _____ love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

