

# Our Father Loves

(John 3:16)

- Introduction:
1. In this short series, we wanted to remind ourselves of a few of the qualities possessed by the God we serve.
    - a. He Listens.
    - b. He Leads.
    - c. He Loves.
  2. In this morning's lesson, I want us to consider one of the most talked about and most misunderstood character traits of God - His Love.
  3. There is no question that God loves us, but just what does that mean?
    - a. Will "Love Win" in the sense that Rob Bell wrote about in his book by the same title?
    - b. Does his love include discipline?
    - c. Does his love have limits?

## I. The Extent of God's Love

- A. (Romans 5:6-11).
- B. (Revelation 22:17) Whosoever wills.
- C. This is why we sing, "Amazing Grace!"
- D. God loves all men, regardless of his deeds; but love and acceptance are not to be confused.

## II. The Example of God's Love

- A. (John 3:14-16).
- B. Consider the significance of the little word, "so" in verse 16.
  1. This adverb can describe the "extent" of God's love.
  2. Or it can describe the "manner" of God's love.
  3. Contextually, I believe this passage describe the manner of his love.
- C. So what was God's love likened unto?
  1. The account of the brazen serpent (John 3:14-15; Numbers 21:4-9).
  2. God will punish those who sin.
  3. God made provision for his people.
  4. God stipulated a condition be met before they were healed.
- D. It's in this same manner God loves us today through the "lifting up" of Jesus upon the cross.

## III. The Earnest of God's Love

- A. An "earnest" is a promise.
- B. After having given his one and only Son, is there any doubt that God is serious about our salvation?
- C. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).
- D. I'm not nearly as concerned about what happens next in life because I know what happens last (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).

- Conclusion:
1. Don't ever forget just how much God loves you, and the way in which he loves you.
  2. If you haven't properly responded to his love, you have that opportunity to do so today (John 14:15).