

# Jesus is Love

Romans 12:10

*Pastor Mark John Bennett*

Love is the greatest gift of all! It's as if love is the wrapping paper containing all the other gifts of Christmas, Faith, hope, joy, and glory. All this, wrapped in one special bundle called love. The bow that ties this package is the body and blood of Jesus broken and spilled out for us on the Cross. Oh, that we would only receive this gift of ultimate love! This gift, given at just the right time! God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to be the Lamb of God, who takes away our sins. Our broken relationship is restored, redeemed, and we are brought into loving relationship with the Trinity. We enter into that perfect bond of loving relationship.

## 1. Love's Journey: God First Loved us

### Before Time.

Go, in your imagination, to a time when time did not exist. Before Creation there was only God. Three-in-One in perfect trinitarian union. Perfect love in perfect harmony and relationship. Complete. Yet, somehow, there was desire to share this union. To invite into relationship. In that moment God saw you! You were conceived in the mind of the Almighty. Even before a single atom had been created, before the light of any star shone, you were the twinkle in God's eye.

God saw you in complete totality. From birth to death, every breath, every heartbeat, every thought, every feeling, every pain, and every joy. In that moment, God loved you! He decided to create you in His image and likeness. And when He did, He said, "Very Good!"

God knew you, the whole you. Only a Sovereign, Omnipotent-Creator could know everything about you! Yes, He did. He knew every moment of joy you would experience. He knew every pain you would ever feel. He felt your delight, He felt your fear. There has never been a moment, never been a thought, never been a feeling you have had, that God did not experience with you. He knew them before you existed. The complete package of you, wrapped in His Agape Love; His perfect love.

*"In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..."*

(John1:1) Echoing Genesis 1:1.

There was only one problem...

Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Gen 3:7). *"So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden..."* (Gen 3:24). When Adam sinned, sin entered the world... (Romans 5:12).

*“...But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.”* (Romans 5:15b)

*“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.”*  
(Romans 5:6)

At the Right Time.

## **2. Love in Action: God Sent Love: Jesus IS Love!**

Love is the message of the Bible... this is God's love letter to you! Love is proclaimed **759** times in the Bible.

### **a) The Babe in a Manger.**

And the Word was born, a babe in the manger... (John 1:14). *“For unto us a Child is born, to us a son is given...”* (Isaiah 9:6). The Almighty Creator of the Universe became a helpless baby, dependent on His mother for nourishment. The mouth that spoke universes into existence now cried out. The hands that formed Adam would learn from Joseph how to fashion a chair. The heart that saw you before creation would see you as He hung on the cross.

### **b) The Joy of Jesus, the Man of Sorrows.**

I think what captures me about Jesus is how “real” He is... We all have our image of Jesus in our mind's eye... mine has been changed by *The Chosen*. This is after I spent a season of my life inviting Jesus into the broken places in my heart. This was a very long and painful season. I am grateful, however, for what has come about due to this search for Jesus.

Like I have said about two sides to one coin illustrating the Justice of God with the Love of God, I see Jesus as both the man of sorrows AND one captured by joy!

Jesus carried the burden of the World on His shoulders. Do you see where we get imposters like the Greek god Atlas? I truly don't understand, but by faith I know Jesus was fully-God and fully-man. He had full knowledge of what was going to be required of Him. This is where *The Chosen* has helped me see His frustration with the disciples, but also the fact that He knew what was going to happen to them, the pain and death they would face in His Name. And He endured it all.

My image of Jesus is not the pious, quiet, petulant one we have most often seen in movies. I see Jesus as laughing, joking, playful, and genuinely enjoying life. I believe He felt deeply both pain and pleasure. When He tasted wine, He knew the molecular structure and enjoyed every last drop. When He ate a piece of fruit, He remembered Eve taking that first bite of the forbidden fruit, and I am sure He winced. When He looked up to feel the rays of the Sun on His face, He paused to remember when He spoke the Sun into being and its first rays spreading across the universe.

I am sure Jesus laughed and loved deeply, because that is how I have come to know Him.

### **c) The Perfect Sacrifice.**

*“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.” “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”* (Romans 5:6, 8).

*“The demonstration of God's love in Christ came ‘at just the right time.’ The law had operated for centuries and had served to expose the weakness and inability of people to measure up to the divine standard of righteousness (cf. [Ro 3:20](#); [4:15](#)). No further testing was needed. It was the right time for the Messiah to come into the world.”* Tenney.

And Jesus came, the spotless lamb, the perfect sacrifice. The one who had never done anything wrong, never sinned, never rebelled, never quit, never disobeyed... The Lamb of God to take the entirety of SIN, of the whole world, for all time, on His shoulders.

*“It wasn’t God’s wrath he was suffering, but ours.”* (Rev. Dr. David Dixon, our Emeritus Pastor.)

Jesus hanging on the cross IS the perfect picture of God’s love for everyone, the unsaved, the outsider, the outcast... for you and for me! If only we believe and receive this free gift of love!

### 3. A Life of Love: Jesus loves through Us

#### a) Perfect Love, Perfect Lamb.

1 John 4:18: *“perfect love drives out fear.”* (NIV) Remember *Shalom, Shalom?*

Perfect: fully mature, finished, complete.

Remember, *Justified* means made right with God.

*“He who began a good work in you, is faithful to complete it...”* (Phil 1:6)

*“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”* (Colossians 3:13-14)

We have perfect harmony with each other when we are seeking peace between us. As Jesus is working to make us complete, finished, whole, and fully mature. Remember, a life-long process. We show perfect love when we make allowances, forgive as we are forgiven.

#### b) Practice Perfecting Love.

*“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.”* (Ephesians 4:2-4)

Love is a two-way street, vertical and horizontal...

The Great Command (Mark 12:28-30): *Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength... and love your neighbor as yourself.* The way we can know how much we love God is to look at how much we love other people. Love, correctly understood and practiced, put [peace on the practical level](#). [To truly have peace with others, you must love them as God loves them.](#)

We were made to live in peace and love with each other, when we are at peace with God we can be at peace with others. When we are loving God, and receiving His never-ending Love, we can love others.

### QUESTIONS:

- Do you know how much Jesus loves you?
- Have you asked Him to show you?
- Do you love Jesus? Do you tell Him?
- How are you showing Jesus' love to others?