

THE FATHER HEART OF GOD

(The Book of Malachi)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, Nov 16/17, 2019 Ray Davis

“Love Him” Malachi 1:1-5

If you only knew the Father heart of God for you. If you only knew what He thinks about you, how He feels about you and what He wants to do in and through your life it would change everything! You would love Him, worship Him, listen to Him, be faithful to Him, be generous to Him, transforming every part of your life (Mal1:6, 2:10).

Why Do We Question God’s Love? vv1-2

Historical Background: The exiled Jews have returned to their homeland from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple and the wall around their city. But things are not going as well as they had hoped for and the people are becoming spiritually apathetic and cynical creating even more problems.

Signs: Anxiety, Bitterness, Depression, Envy, Self-absorption, Self-pity, Cynicism, Apathy, Helplessness and Hopelessness.

- Deceived by the pleasures of life. Ps73; Jer9:23-24
- Disillusioned by the pain of life. Isa41:10

How Do We Know God Loves Us?

Our love for God and others grows out of a regular experience of God’s love for us.

- God’s verbal Expression of Love. Mal1:2a; Deut7:6-11
Healthy (covenant) relationships will have these three things: You will feel...Valued (cherished), Included (Belong), Empowered (Responsibility)
- God’s Electing love. Mal1:2b-3; Eph1:4; Rom8:33; Col3:12; 1Pet1:2; Matt24:22; Rom11:7; 2Tim2:10; 2Pet3:9; Rom3:23; John 3:16; Rom10:9-10, 13
- God’s Evident Blessings of love. vv4-5; Rom8:28-32; Heb12:5-11

What Does it Mean to Love God? It is...

- Believing all that He says (whether it’s hard to believe or not). 2Tim3:16-17
- Obedying all that He commands (whether I agree with Him or not). John 14:15
- Accepting all that He sends (whether I understand it or not). Gen50:20/Rom8:28
- Thanking Him for all that He gives (both temporal and eternal). James 1:17
- Enjoying all that He is in and of Himself (better than anything life can give, or suffering/death can take). Phil4:4

Growing Notes

- 1) If you only knew the Father heart of God for you...it would change everything. Explain. Have you ever doubted God’s love? Why or why not? How does our concept of our earthly father help to shape our concept of our Heavenly Father?
- 2) Read Malachi 1:1-5. What are your observations (what does it say)? What are your interpretations (what does it mean)? What are your applications (what difference will this make in my life)?
- 3) Why do we question God’s love? What are some signs in your life of questioning God’s love? What do the pleasure and pain of life cause us to question God’s love?
- 4) What are the three ways that we know God loves us? Which of those three ways do you struggle with the most? What are some things you can do to bask more regularly in the reality of God’s covenant love for you?
- 5) What does it mean to love God? Which one(s) of the five ways to love God do you struggle with the most? Explain. What are your next steps in loving God with all your heart? Pray