

**What The
World**



**Really
Needs**

At the onset of the period that has become known as the "turbulent sixties," pop singer Dusty Springfield told us that what the world needs now, is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of. This proposition is one in which few people would disagree -- but practically everybody would differ as to what exactly this thing called love is.

Hollywood, literature, contemporary music and the like have portrayed love as a sensual, momentary, self-gratifying medium whereby we say or do certain things to meet our own ends. The free love banner that was so proudly waved during the sixties and seventies was simply an innocuous euphemism for cheap sex. Even within the parameters of the historically safe bonds of holy wedlock -- where formally we vowed, "'Til death do us part...I pledge thee my love" -- we now say, "as long as we're both together."

In the twentieth century we have truly become a throwaway society. We can discard a loved one as easily as our last Lean Cuisine container. We change mates like we change our socks. Millions of broken, abandoned, and discarded hearts litter the highway of contemporary culture. While we all still agree that what the world really needs is love, sweet love -- the heart-wrenching cry of the multitude pierces through the fabric of our society as it demands to know what is love?!

The Bible has come under much criticism and attack in recent years. It has been considered irrelevant, errant, out-dated, and outmoded. Though maligned and attacked, it has always been able to withstand the onslaughts of its critics and detractors. When the dust has settled, the Bible inevitably rises above the fray and shines forth as truly the very thing that it claims to be -- the revealed Mind and Word of God. Many who have approached its pages with an open heart and mind have found solace for their troubled souls and answers for their troubled minds.

The Bible not only reveals the mind of God, but also God Himself. Herein lies the answer to our question. The Bible tells us that God is a Person. A Person with likes and dislikes -- just like anyone else. As a Person, God has certain attributes or characteristics of his nature. Just like you might have certain characteristics that describe or define you (brown hair, green eyes, short temper, sensitivity, etc.) so God has certain attributes that are part of His nature.

The difference is since God is an infinite Being, knowing no limits, whenever we speak of His attributes we must also speak of them as being limitless. For example, we shouldn't think of Him as being powerful, but all-powerful (omnipotent) (Ps. 135:6). He does not simply possess much knowledge but He has all knowledge (omniscient) (Luke 16:15). He is a limitless Spirit (John 4:24). He is holy (Deut. 32:4; 2 Sam. 2:2). He is love (1 John 4:8, 16).

When we speak of God's holiness as an attribute we don't mean He has a sour lemon-sucking expression or that He wears a certain type of clothing or any of the stereotypical views that commonly go along with holiness. By God's holiness the Bible means that He is totally and absolutely separate and removed from sin. As with His other attributes, His holiness is limitless. Sin is completely foreign to His nature. It is a contradiction of who He is.

The Lord is also a God of wrath. This goes along with His holiness. Because He is completely holy, all disobedience (sin) must be judged by His total and complete wrath. All of His divine, all-powerful wrath must be meted out upon all sin against Him with all the totality that is God's. To do anything else would be to violate His very nature.

When we say that an attribute of God is love, we are saying that love is not something that God does, but that it is something that God is. God is love. His love also knows no bounds. It is complete, total and unconditional.

God created the physical universe, especially mankind, in order to have an object for His love. Before Adam we might say that the love of God was all dressed up with no place to go. After Adam appeared on the scene, the Lord poured all of that limitless, boundless love out on the man and his wife, Eve.

God's "Dilemma"

After being tempted by Satan, Adam and Eve fell and sin entered the world, and the Lord's creation, now cursed and fallen, demanded divine retribution.

Humanly speaking, God found Himself in a quandary. His infinite holiness required that He unleash His unrestrained, all-powerful wrath upon man whom He loved with an unconditional love. From earth's point of view, there was a paradox for which there was no answer. All sin, whether the thoughts of the heart or the actions of the body must be judged!

God's Solution

Enter Jesus, God's Son. He left His eternal dwelling in heaven with the Father to become a man -- a man who was in all ways just like you and me. He was subject to all the experiences that are part of the human existence. He felt joy, pain, grief and sorrow. He laughed, cried, became hungry and understood in the most intimate way possible what it was to be a man. He loved and He was rejected by those whom He had thought loved Him. He was in all points and in every way a man -- yet without sin (Heb. 4:15).

Because God so loved His creation (John 3:16), He willingly gave His own Son in order that He would not only become one of us, but that He would take our place of punishment that each one of us deserves (Rom 3:23). Those whom the Lord loved rejected His Son so that in the end, they crucified Him on the cross. The nails that were driven into His hands were my nails. The cross upon which He was hung was your cross. It was there that the sacrifice for our sins was offered up to a holy God. The price for every sin, past, present, and future -- both great and small -- was paid in full at that moment. The full unleashing of an offended God was poured out upon His innocent Lamb. The scene was so horrendous that the Father looked away -- not able to look upon the sight as His Son bore all the weight, guilt and shame of our sins on His own back. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus died. All the universe wept. The holiness of God was satisfied.

Yes, the Lord emptied all of His infinite, omnipotent wrath into His Son, Jesus, so that there was nothing left for you and me but His love. Infinite love. That kind of love that would willingly give Himself so the sake of His loved ones. This is the answer to our question.

This love is available today to all who are willing to accept it. It is not conditional. It is not temporary. It will never be withdrawn.

Aren't you tired of the world's brand of love? Wouldn't you like the peace and contentment that comes with being engulfed by the love of your Creator? You can have that love today. All that is necessary is an acknowledgment that it was your sins that caused Jesus to die on the cross and that you repent (change your mind concerning) of those sins and want to give your life to Him and trust Him as your Savior. Give Him your pain, your guilt, your fears. Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you (1 Pet. 5:7) Empty yourself of yourself so that He might fill you with His love.

If you have responded to this call and have decided to give your life to Jesus and to ask Him into your heart, please write to the address below so that we might rejoice with you and help you with some materials to assist you in this new life. No tricks, no gimmicks. We simply just want to help.

If you would like additional copies of this tract, they are free of charge simply for writing to the following address:

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