

BLISS BEYOND THE DOOR

Crossing the Threshold into the Love We were Made For

Thesis: A door is a passageway out of one place and into another. There are two “doors” brought to view in the Bible. The first is Jesus, who is our passageway into the heart of God. Entering through Him we discover exactly what kind of person God really is. His beautiful life and self-sacrificing death is an open door of invitation into the true knowledge and full experience of God’s love. Everything we were made for lies just beyond the door presented to us in Christ. The second door is in us. The free will that exists in the human heart, your heart and mine, is the door before which God stands knocking with urgent desire. He longs for us to open up and invite Him in. There is a door in Christ, and there is a door in each of us. His is wide open. Is mine? Is yours?

John 10:9-11, 15, 18, 30, 32—9I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved... 10The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. 11I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep... 15As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep... 18No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself... 30I and My Father are one... 32Many good works I have shown you from My Father.

Revelation 3:20—Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

THE FATHER IN CHRIST

John 14:9-10—He who has seen Me has seen the Father... 10I am in the Father, and the Father in Me...the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

2 Corinthians 5:19, Phi—19God was in Christ personally reconciling the world to himself—not counting their sins against them—and has commissioned us with the message of reconciliation... 21For God caused Christ, who himself knew nothing of sin, actually to be sin for our sakes, so that in Christ we might be made good with the goodness of God.

Ephesians 4:32—God in Christ forgave you.

THE ALLURING BEAUTY OF GOD’S LOVE

Song of Solomon 8:6-7, NASB—6Put me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol [the grave]; its flashes are flashes of fire, the *very* flame of the LORD. 7Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; if a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised.

NOTE: Jesus is the door into salvation (verse 9) and abundant life (10). He opened the door by giving up His life for us in self-sacrificing love (11). He did this because of He knew the Father’s character (15), so that the sacrifice we see at the cross is a revelation of the Father’s heart as well as the Son’s (30, 32).

NOTE: Omniscience=God is all-knowing; He knows all there is to know. Omnipotence=God is all-powerful; He possesses all power. Omnipresence=God is all-pervasive; He is everywhere at all times. “**Omnipassion**”=God is all-

Hosea 3:1— Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel.”

Hosea 2:13-14— 13“*She...went after her lovers; but Me she forgot,*” says the LORD. 14“*Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her.*” [“I will win her back with words of love.” (TEV)].

John 12:32—I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.

1 Peter 3:18—For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.

John 3:16—For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1 John 3:16—By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

THE POWER OF GOD’S LOVE

1 Corinthians 1:18—For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15— 14For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge (discern) thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Romans 5:5-8— 5The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 3:14-21— 14For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— 19to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

sensitive; He is emotionally responsive to all others beside Himself.

NOTE: Hosea speaks of the sin problem as a violated love relationship. God is our spiritual lover and we are pursuing adulterous affairs with other lovers. Sin is a rejection of God’s love and a refusal to love Him in return. This view of sin is evident in the New Testament: “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). “Love *is* the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10). If sin is the violation of God’s law, and the essence of that law is love, it follows that sin is anti-love, self-centeredness as opposed to other-centeredness.

NOTE: To *draw* or *allure* is to influence by presenting a powerful attraction, which is the antithesis of coercion.

NOTE: The sacrifice of Christ was made because God already loved us, not in order to arouse love in Him.

NOTE: It is God’s selfless love revealed in Christ that constitutes the power of the gospel. Jesus said those who see this love will be *drawn* to Him. Paul said those who see it will be *compelled* to cease living for themselves. Hosea said those who see it will be *allured* to God.

“God is Love”—1 John 4:16