

January 19, 2020

God is Righteous

1 John 4:8, 16 ...God is love...

- We have been discussing those attributes that make up the Nature of God:

omniscient – omnipresent – omnipotent – immutable – sovereign
- By God's Nature we mean that which makes God Who He is within Himself as described by those attributes that are essential to His Being as God. Theologically, these attributes can be classified as God's *absolute* attributes.
- On the other hand, God's Character is the expression of His Nature through those attributes that are related to His work in the creation. These attributes are called God's *relative* attributes.
- These are those attributes that have always been potential in God, they became active after Gen. 1:1.
- While God's absolute attributes are essential to God's Being as God, His relative attributes are those which He has freely determined to exercise in keeping with His Nature and creative purpose.
- Examples of these attributes are: God's mercy, God's faithfulness, God's patience, God's forgiveness, etc.

- Apart from God's love within the context of both His Nature and His character, our understanding is inaccurate.

- Apart from an understanding that God's love is a Righteous love, we cannot reconcile the seeming divergent acts of God in the O.T.:
 - God is both just and merciful
 - God both curses and blesses
 - God both punishes and pardons
 - God both loves and hates

- Therefore, it is imperative that we FIRST understand God's Righteousness before we can understand His love in truth.

- The subject of God's Righteousness is one of the major themes of the Bible

...YHWH [the LORD] is Righteous... Ps. 11:7; 129:4; 143:2; Dan. 9:14; Zeph. 3:5; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rev. 22:11

- What is God's Righteousness? It is His relative attribute that describes the Rightness of all of His ways and His works.

- But what is the standard for God's Righteousness? God's own Holiness.

Lev. 11:44 YHWH declares ...I am holy...

Lev. 19:2 You shall be holy as I am holy...[1 Peter 1:16]

- To say that God is holy is to say that He is without any fault, failure, weakness, corruption or sin whatsoever and forever.
- God is saying that He Himself is the standard of all moral purity and perfection.
- This means that everything about God's Nature and character is holy, is perfect and pure.
- God is righteous means that His every activity, every motive, every thought, every deed is morally perfect and pure in keeping with His holiness.