

God Chat

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these Friday nights we will present glimpses of evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

INTRO

From week one of our studies we have talked about the character of God, and the opposing sides in a war that started due to the questioning God's government. We have tried to look at the big picture of the beginning of this war and also what really went wrong. As we continue to search for answers about God's character and the suffering this world goes through it is our hope that all of us can experience a personal encounter with the creator that risked everything for our existence and for true freedom.

THE LAW OF LIBERTY:

The Law of Liberty is a principle, and it is founded upon love.

What are the possible consequences of the violation of The Law of Liberty?

- 1) Love is damaged and eventually ruined
- 2) A desire to rebel and get away
- 3) When you voluntarily accept this violation there is a loss of individuality and autonomy

Have you ever experienced these consequences in your life and relationships? What are good examples of situations that might result in these?

1) HOW DO YOU SEE GOD?

GEN 3:1-4 - The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman.

To accept someone or a concept you need to know it and understand it and our knowledge will lead us to trust or disbelief. Your perception of God is related with the knowledge you have of Him. And this is why it is important to know him more.

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2) WHY WAS JESUS CONDEMNED TO DEATH?

JOHN 16:1 - But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (NIV)

JOHN 8:38-44 - I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father."Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did. As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the things your own father does." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

JOHN 3:8 - The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

God's son came to destroy the words, the lies of the enemy but: What words? What enemy? The same enemy from Genesis 3, the one who took the form of a serpent: Things are not the way God tells you, God is not who you think He is.

3) WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF WHO GOD IS?

JOHN 14:9 - Jesus replied: Philip, I have been with you for a long time. Don't you know who I am? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask me to show you the Father? (CEV)

JOHN 8:32 - And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."(NLT)

II CORINTHIANS 4:6 - The Scriptures say, "God commanded light to shine in the dark." Now God is shining in our hearts to let you know that his glory is seen in Jesus Christ.

I JOHN 4:8 - God is love, and anyone who doesn't love others has never known him. (CEV)

God's true identity was lost. Humanity chose to believe a lie about what Love is, who God is.

WE WERE MADE FOR SOMETHING MORE:

As we go through the motions of life we seem to always strive for better things. Whether we are rich or poor, young or old, weak, strong, wise, foolish, all wish for more.

ECCLESIASTES 9:11 - I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. (NIV)

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4) WHEN YOU LOOK AROUND WHAT PLACES OR THINGS MAKE YOU THINK THAT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE?

PSALM 63:1 - O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (NIV)

PSALM 145:15-16 - The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. (NIV)

5) CAN HE FULFILL OUR DESIRES?

ISAIAH 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"(NIV)

GENESIS 2:18 - Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him."

Love, can you experience it by yourself? Biblically Love is described as other centeredness this requires at least two people. So love should begin, come from me, and end or be shared with you.

MATTHEW 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (NIV)

JOHN 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (NIV)

6) WHY DOES GOD EXIST? WHY DOES LOVE EXIST? WHAT SHOULD LOVE BE BASED ON?

I Corinthians 13 - Love never fails.

MATTHEW 5:43-48 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

GENESIS 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."(NIV)

JOHN 10:10 - The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (NLT)

Love loves without question and all of us crave it. When we experience pleasure we want to share it and as love continues and expresses itself it deepens. Love is other centeredness, and we were created to experience and the pleasure of loving and being loved. This is what we were made for.

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