

God First Loved us

1 John 4:19

Introduction: I remember in my younger days certain teachers that I really grew close to. I always thought it was just because maybe we had the same interest or personalities but when I look back, I came to realize something. They loved their job and their students and it made it in turn much easier for me to appreciate and grow to love them. Without their love first, I would not have grown to love them.

1. God wants to share His love; in turn He wants to be loved. In 1 John 4:8 we see that God not only wants to share His love but He cannot help but to share His love because God is love.
2. If God did not love us, I have a hard time believing that we would love Him. This is why I find it hard to believe in the Muslim god, Allah, he is not a personal god, he does not love his worshipers and also even if you do good deeds in the end he can still reject you. This is not the God that we love and serve.
3. God first loved us in the same way a parent first loves their child, He prepared a way for us to come into the world. We are going to look at God's amazing creation to see God's love for us.

Body:

I. God created the heavens and the earth (Gen 1:1)

A. God gave us light to see and gain warmth (Gen 1:3) (Setting up the light in the child's room)

1. The sun is one of the most important things in our solar system
2. It is the main source of energy for the earth
3. The orbital velocity of the sun is in its perfect position
4. God gave us the ability to see what he has prepared for us

B. God provided us with water that sustains every living creature (Gen 1:6) (Making sure a child has what it takes for life)

1. John 4:10-11 implies that God has given us two "living waters"

- a. Physical life giving water
- b. Spiritual life giving water

2. From AlphaOmega Marketing: "Water is one of the most essential elements to good health -- it is necessary for the digestion and absorption of food; helps maintain proper muscle tone; supplies oxygen and nutrients to the cells; rids the body of wastes; and serves as a natural air conditioning system. Health officials emphasize the importance of drinking at least eight glasses of clean water each and every day to maintain good health." (<http://www.aomega.com/mpure/water.htm>)

C. God provided the earth that we may live and survive on (Gen 1:9-10) (We buy our kids cribs, and things they can crawl on)

1. Without dry land we could not live
2. This is where all of our food and materials grow (Gen 1:11)
3. Psalms 104:14-17

II. God created us in His image (Gen 1:26) (Sometimes as parents we have a bias towards our kids, that's how God feels about us)

A. God could have created us like every other living creature

B. He gave us rule over the earth (Psalms 8:3-9)

C. He gives us worth and a sense of being

1. Self-confidence is an attitude which allows individuals to have positive yet realistic views of themselves and their situations. Self-confident people trust their own abilities, have a general sense of control in their lives, and believe that, within reason, they will be able to do what they wish, plan, and expect. (http://www.counselingcenter.illinois.edu/?page_id=191)

III. God created everything for us (Gen 1:29-30)

A. God gave us mates (Gen 1:28a; 2:18; Ephesians 5:22-33)

B. God gave us every plant and fruit for our need (Gen 1:29-30)

C. God gave us the animals to for food (Gen 1:30; 9:3)

D. Matthew 7:25-34

1. God gave us all these things so we might not worry

Conclusion:

2. We sing the song God is so good, and does that not reign true. God cannot help but show His love for us and it all started with how perfect He created the heavens and the earth
3. For all God has done for us, he deserves our love for He first loved us
4. God's ultimate example of His love was sending His son to die on the cross.