

God's Love Gift

His unfathomable Love

(Eph 3:18-19 NIV) And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Matthew 1:18-2:23

How Lavish is the love of God?

Born of unmarried parents

(Luke 2:5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.)

Born “Homeless”

(Luke 2:7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.)

Born “in a barn”

(Luke 2:7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.)

Born “a fugitive”

(Matt 2:13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.")

Born “to be scorned!”

(Mat 2:23 NIV) *and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."*

(John 1:46 NIV) *"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.*

(Psa 22:6 NIV) *But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.*

(Psa 69:7 NIV) *For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face.*

Christ humbled Himself

(Phil 2:5-8 NIV) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

God demonstrated His love:

Christ did the hard thing for us.

**How does God's love apply
to you personally?**

Christ died for us..

(Rom 5:8 NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

As the cross applied to us as Individuals...

God loves us as individuals.

**Why is it so hard for some
to receive this love?**

The absence of felt love...

I can live in the absence of felt love, not because I am not loved but because I refuse to accept it.

Trouble is promised...

(John 16:33 NIV) "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

To all who received Him

(John 1:12 NIV) Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

There is a person to receive...

There is love to receive .

**What about the hard
things?**

For God's glory...

(John 9:2-3 NIV) His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

**God has created the world
in such a way that...**

The **Hard things** point us to Him

Imitate God in love...

(Eph 5:1-2 NIV) Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.