

What Kind Of Love Is This

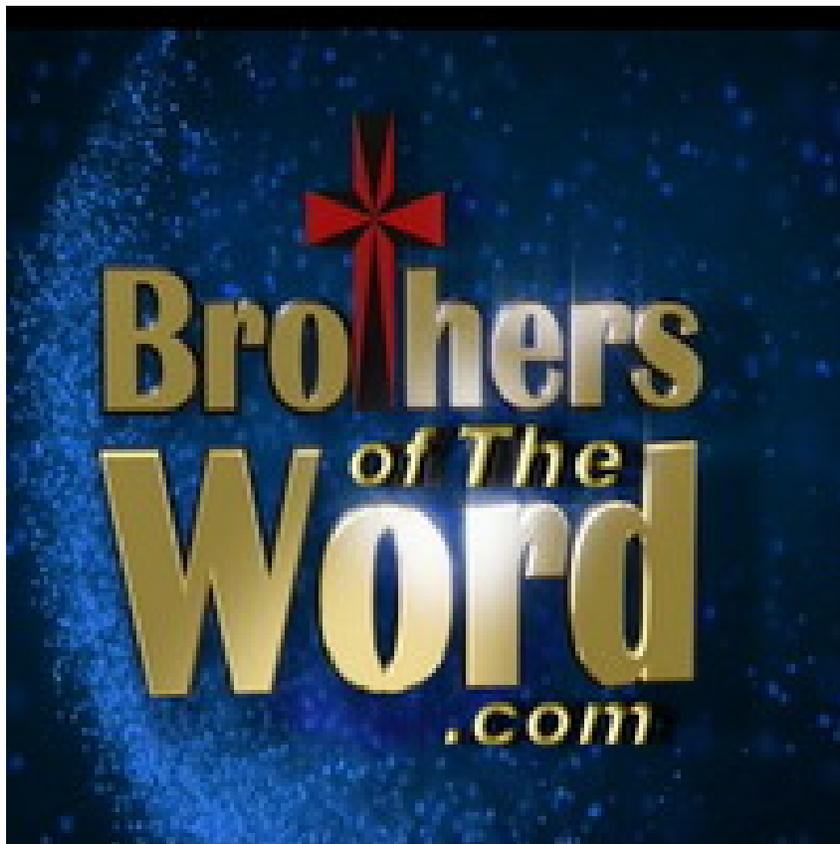
Sermon Title: **What Kind Of Love Is This**

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Speaker: **Mark Stroud**

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Mark Stroud: The more of God's love you experience and you know when you walk in, the more you can give out to others.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the sermon titled, "What Kind Of Love Is This" by Mark Stroud. This sermon is number 6541.

(Music Playing)

Female: And now for, "What Kind Of Love Is This."

Mark Stroud: Thank you for joining us for Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

Tonight, we'll be looking at a very familiar scripture, and the Book of John the third chapter and you can quote this verse by heart, John 3:16. We're going to start there tonight, we're going to start there tonight and we're just going to be at awe of God's great love. What kind of love is this? That's our subject tonight. What kind of love is this?

In our society today, unfortunately, I keep hearing about suicides. And just this week, I've heard about another gentleman that committed suicide and left his wife and small children. Just a very sad story as people are finding themselves hopeless and without really knowing the love of God. I'm telling you to know the love of God is to know it all. And it is my prayer tonight that you would not just understand his love mentally, comprehend his love, but that you would experience his love that you would be enraptured in the presence of the Lord. In the Lord's presence is fullness of joy, at his right hand are pleasures forevermore. To experience the love that comes only from him. It's enrapturing and makes you want to float.

Let's go and start. John, the Third Chapter, Verse 16, I'll just read it. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." What kind of love is that? That the God of everything, the Father of everything, another name or another definition for a father is source. The source of everything. The creator of everything. So, loved the world, so loved you and I, so loved all of humanity that he gave his Son. Really, he wrapped himself in flesh. The Son stepped out of the Father.

The Bible declares in Book of Revelations that, before the foundation of the world, the lamb was slain or from the foundation of the world, the lamb was slain. Now, that's very prophetic and that's awesome because Jesus instructs us that before you build a tower, before you do something, always consider the cost. He said count the cost. To know that once you are able to finish what you start and know that you have the ample provision, know that you have ample supply to bring about the expected end. So, before God started anything, way back in what we will call the eternity past, before he created the moon, the stars, the angels, the planets and all of that stuff, before you and I came out in physical form, God had us on his mind.

We knew that what happened in the Garden was not something that caught the Father off guard. He knew it. He knew that there was a cost. Before the foundation of the world, the lamb slain. He knew that if he were to bring about this creation called, "man", man would have to have freewill. The ability to love him. He didn't want some automatons, some robots, that would only do one particular action. He had to make them like himself, able to love and to love him with freewill, to give free expression. But what he also created to love greatly would also hate greatly. This thing man would be able to bring about such great beauty and also such great destruction. The Father counted up the cost, looking before the angels were created, knowing what Lucifer would do, knowing the full plan, but he still looked forward, looked through the annals of time and he saw you, and he saw me and said, "They are worth it." But if I make man, and then that means that, "Son, you will have to die."

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I will have to give of myself. I will have to hang on the cross. I will have to be beaten and mocked and scorned and lied on and abused. I will have to go through this process but the very worst process, the very worst thing as we talk about what kind of love is this. I can see Jesus there in the Garden of Gethsemane and the Bible says, "He's agonizing in prayer." And he says to the Father, "Father, all things are possible to You. If it be your will, and if this thing is possible, let this cup pass from me." Like, what is so traumatic and I looked at that. I know it was painful

being whipped. I know it was painful having a crown of thorns upon his head. I know all the events that took place after that. But the most horrifying thing that I believe that the Lord Jesus was identifying with that moment was being separated from his Father. With God with him, with God on his side, with the presence of the Father, the Father's love and approval, all around him, he can go through anything! Anything!

But He knew that when he hung on the cross, the Bible says that, "He who knew sin became sin." Jesus became the sin offering and that as He hang upon the cross, all of our sin, my sin, the sin of all humanity, He would pay the price for it and when the Father would look upon him, he knew that the Father must reject him at that moment and he hung on the cross and said, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani." Interpreted, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" At that moment, the Father watched. Because now, the Son is absolute. He has the covering of sin. He became the sin offering for you and I and God the Father is absolutely holy.

So, there is a separation and I could imagine, Father, what must had it been like? Lord Jesus, what must had it been like to be alive on this planet, to be alive anywhere without the love of the Father? Without the approval of the Father, without his presence with you. What must that have been like, hell before hell. A fate worse than death, a fate worse than hell because the Father, the Son had always known the Father. The Son has always known the presence of the Father. From the very beginning, the Father spoke. The Son, the words stepped out and he created and the Spirit moved upon the word and that is how everything was created. There was always a relationship between Father, Son, Spirit are one, always a relationship but at this time, Jesus knowing as is in the Garden, he's praying and as he's praying, his sweat is like great drops of blood, great agony upon him knowing that for this time, never has it happened before, throughout all eternity, that the Son would now be separate from the Father.

And he said, "They're worth it." What kind of love is this? That as the Lord was crucified, the Father released him, the Father stepped back from Him. Jesus said, the Father forsaken him. Jesus dies, going to the Lord, parts of hell and he takes our sins and he burns them up. There in the lake of fire, there's no more remembrance of our sin and then he raises up, he gets up, he's

resurrected that third day and now, he is completely pure. A few days before, he was forsaken by the Father but now, coming up out, he is now completely pure, completely purged of all of our sin and my sin completely destroyed in the lake of fire, completely done away with and now, he ascended up on high and he's sitting right now at the right hand of God, perfectly accepted, perfectly approved up, perfectly sinless, perfectly holy, testifying that what he came to do was done. So, you and I could now have his covering. Now, we are in Christ Jesus.

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Now, the same love that the Father has for the Son, he has for his sons. The same love, the same how Jesus has been justified, we are justified now in him. We are redeemed in him; we are the redeemed in Christ Jesus. What kind of love is this that the Father would allow the Son to go through that for you? For me? Going back to John 3:16, For God so loved the world that He gave, he released, that he gave, that whosoever, whoever, whoever, whoever. Unfortunately, I've known many that call on the name of Christ or many that say they're part of the church who like to label people, who like to prequalify people or prejudge people, they have a prejudice toward people and if God would tell, if the command were to go out, go out into all the highways and byways and of course, he has said that to us and compel people to come, most of us would only get those that look like us, those who we think, "Okay, you're pretty good, you don't have this or have that on you" and most of us would go past the person that's drunk or the person that's on drugs and the person that has a lot of tattoos all over their faces and that has pierced everywhere.

We would maybe step over them, but God says, whoever, whoever come, come. And the Bible says that God demonstrates his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. And remember, it was the mission of Christ. John 3:17, the Bible declares that, "The Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Instead of prequalify him because God knows what He can do with it.

Well, I've seen some shows, maybe you've seen them too, where they would go into these junkyards and one man would see this

old car, it is old, 1950s car. It looks like a big rust bucket to me, like you need a tetanus shot to even look at the thing and there are rats crawling out the thing, but he says, "Oh, this is beautiful! Oh, this is beautiful! I know what I can do with this." But they go, "Oh, man, no, no, no. Find one without all of that on it." But when this master craftsman, this master mechanic, he gets in there and does this and puts a new motor in here and a new paint job and all that thing, and all of a sudden, that thing that was a bunch of junk to me, looks beautiful.

The Father says, "Don't disqualify them, I know what I can do for them. I know what I can do for them, through them and to them. I can use them." We can't prejudge people or disqualify people because the Father is the one who holds all things. He holds all things and it's the Father's will for you and I to experience His love, not just when we die and one day, oh, we'll know his love once we die. No, now, now. He tells us this in the Book of Mark. He says, "Whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you received them and you shall have them." We've desired a lot of things, we've desired houses, cars, lands, lions bears. Oh my, we've desired a lot of stuff, stocks and bonds, and this, and that, but I wonder who would desire him? Who would say like Paul, you know all these things in this life, I count them as dung. I count them as nothing, rubbish, so that I may attain him.

I wonder what would happen if we say, "God, I want to experience you, I want to know you, fill me with your love. Fill me with your love, fill me with your passion. And one of the greatest verses I found in the Bible is when the Lord Jesus says that he is the vine. He says the Father is the (00:14:26), you know, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches and every tree, he gives us that physical picture to bring us to a spiritual truth, right? Every tree that I have seen, the branches always grow out of the trunk of a tree. I haven't seen one yet that's opposite from that. And when the branch grows out of the trunk of the tree, you really can't tell where the tree stops and where the branch begins. It is so interwoven. We see things on the surface, but there is so much that is happening underneath.

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The branch grows out of it. And when we acknowledge that relationship, that Father, I am a part of you, you are a part of

me, we are one. That's what Jesus said. He said, "I am in him, and thou in me, we are one." We are one and we can think with the mind of Christ. We can reason with him and the Lord said, "Hey, I'll give you my spirit to live only inside of you." God Almighty, the Holy Spirit lives on the inside of us and contrary to popular belief, he's a lot better than Google. If you ask him, he'll talk to you. He'll lead you into all truth, he'll show you things to come if we just ask him. "Father, I want to experience you, I want to know you. Fill me with this love. Show me your love. All of this passion that you have for me, let me see what you see in me because the more of God's love you experience and you know when you walk in, the more you can give out to others and the easier it is to tolerate others so to speak.

When an enemy comes and cross your path, the first thing you'll think about, "Okay, I see you, yeah. But formerly, I would give you a few choice words and I may even give you one of my fingers, but now, I'm going to point you straight up to heaven." This is the way to heaven right here, and now, devil what you meant for evil, all you've done is just put that person at the top of my prayer list and I'm going to pray the blessings of God over them. God save them, heal them and deliver them. Lord, you made that person, you made them. Everything in this world belongs to you. So, Lord, I pray your will be done in their lives. I rebuke the devil out of them. Praise the Lord. All the other influences, praise God. And then I see that person again and wow, what a change, what a change. The power that we have, but first of all, we must know him. Desire to know him.

I'm going to tell you, desire to be -- not only to know about his love, but to experience his love. When you feel his arms wrapped around you. I, there are times that I felt the embrace of the Lord whether I'm just sitting somewhere and I feel the spirit of the Lord just come all upon me, my fingers are electric, my toes are electric and I know Father, you are right here with me and I'm experiencing his presence. He's there with me. What a sublime peace, what a sublime joy. There is bliss that comes up. And at that time, I've learned, let me begin to pray. So, I began to call up people's names in the presence of the Lord, asking the Lord to save, heal and deliver. Save them and deliver, and then he began to speak to me about this one and speak to me about that one. While I pick up the phone and say, "Hey this is what the Lord is saying" and oh, he's saying that and you'll will be amazed.

The Father often says, you know I'm thinking about them right now. Tell them I'm thinking about them, tell them that they're making me smile, tell them I'm so proud of them. And the person says, "Who me? Me?" Yes! He really does love you. And he's really glad when you come. He really does. Look past all of the other stuff and just sees us in Christ. Let's use our prayer power.

This week, I want to just encourage you to do that. Use your prayer power this week. Not for more money because you get the money then, "Lord, I need more money. Get us more of that." Let's use it for something that's priceless. Priceless. Help me know you, help me feel you, help me experience you and wrap me with your love. Let me experience your presence. Let me see you and in doing that, all life changes. It changes. There will come such peace in you, such peace in you. Remember, Jesus was forsaken so that you and I would never be, would never be. He took the strife so that we could be healed. He took the sins so that we could be righteous. He paid a high price. It was an overpayment. He paid it for you and I and it's time for us to cash in on what the Lord Jesus did.

So, we go back to the very beginning, rewind. John 3:16, For God so loved the world, he so loved you, not just when you were born or not just when you decided to know him.

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Mark Stroud: No, he loved you before the beginning, from the foundation of the world. You've been on his mind for quite some time now and he loves you now more than you could ever know or imagine. And I want to tell you all tonight, he loves you. And I want to thank you for joining us for Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. God bless you. Let's give the Lord a mighty hand of praise. Hallelujah. Glory to God.

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