

HOW GREAT A LOVE

Tonight's lesson comes from an advanced Greek class study:

(1 John 3:1) "See **how great a love** the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

Command: See (horao / a.a.impv.2pl).

Charity: How great (**potapos / asf**) a love (agape / asf) the Father has bestowed (**didomi / perf.a.ind 3ps**) upon us (ego / dplm) [to ones advantage].

Children: That (hina) [with the result] we should be called (kaleo / a.p.subj.1pl) children of God (tekon theos) and such we are (eimi / p.a.ind.3ps).

Cosmos: For this reason (dia+acc of cause / houtos / asn) the world (ho cosmos / nsm) does not know (ouk ginoko / p.a.ind.3ps) us because (hoti) [reason] it did not know (ouk ginoko / a.a.ind.3ps) Him.

- Notice that didomi is translated "bestowed" rather than given. "Bestowed implies the idea of freely given." (Vine's Expository Dictionary Biblical Words, pg.63)
- Notice that potapos (**how great**) is used as an indirect question. It is used in the same grammatical way in two other passages but translated differently.

(Luke 1:29) "But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering **what kind of** salutation this might be." (Gabriel to Mary)

(Luke 7:39) "Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet he would know who and **what sort of** person this woman is who is touching him that she is a sinner.'"

In all three examples, **potapos** carried the idea of amazement of something that was mind-bobbling to the world.

<p style="text-align: center;">This lesson will study four aspects of <u>How Great a Love</u> God has for the world that is mind-bobbling to the world prior to salvation.</p>

1. Because God has perfect essence, He has perfect love – "God is love." (1 John 4:8b).

Omnipresent (Jer.23:24)

Omnipotent (Rom.4:17)

Omniscience (1 John 3:20)

Immutable (Heb.13:8)

Veracity (Heb.6:18)

Sovereignty (Acts 17:24-26)

Righteousness (1 John 1:7)

Eternal Life (1 Tim.1:17)

Holiness (1 Pet.1:15-16)

Love (1 John 4:8)

(1 John 4:16) "And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

How is it possible for a Righteous God with Perfect Love to love unrighteous sinful man and still be consistent within His essence?

2. The sovereignty of God designed a Plan where He could love the world and still be consistent within His essence. This is truly amazing (Eph.2:4-5).

(John 3:16) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

(Eph.3:11) “This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Col.1:13; John 3:35-36)

3. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the manifestation of God’s love towards unrighteous sinful man (John 10:17-18; Titus 3:4-7; Gal.2:20; 1 John 3:16).

(Rom.5:8) “But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(1 John 4:10) “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Note that God did not send His Son to be the propitiation for the sins of mankind because man was lovable (1 John 4:19).

(Eph.5:2) “And walk in love, just as Christ loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

(1 John 4:9) “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.”

4. At the moment of believing the gospel of grace salvation, the CAB becomes the object of God’s maximum love (John 17:26; 1 Thess.1:4-5; Col.3:12).

One of the twenty status-privileges of our identity with God’s Beloved Son is – **beloved**:

(Eph.1:6) “To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”
(Matt,3:17; 2 Pet.1:17)

(Jude 1) “To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ.”; Rom.1:7)

(Rom.5:5) “And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (1 Pet.1:8; Phil.1:9; Gal.5:22-23)

Every Church Age Believer (CAB) is loved by God with exactly the same amount of love that He has for His only begotten Son (John 15:9; 1 John 3:1).

(John 17:23) “I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.”