

***“The Wellspring of
Koinonia: God’s Delight in
Being God”***

John 17:1-26

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Defining *Koinonia*

- The word *koinonia* is built off the word *koinos* (common) and means “a commonness of life.” Since Christians are connected through Christ, our *koinonia* is a commonness of life in Christ.
- This means that love is at the heart of *koinonia* and that *koinonia* is the love of the Father flowing through his people to his people and back to him in a never-ending cycle.

The Wellspring of *Koinonia* is...

... the *koinonia* of God with God

or the love of God for God

or the delight of God in being God

On the Phrase “God is Love”

- Most of us know and believe the phrase “God is love” but do we feel the force of the phrase at an emotional level?
- There are several challenges to feeling the force of this truth including...

The Wrath of God

- The Bible teaches us that God is slow to anger but also that there are times when he is moved to anger and wrath and even violence toward sinners.
- The Bible never says that God *is* anger only that he becomes angry and sometimes acts upon his anger.
- The wrath of God flows out of the love of God; it is a protective impulse in God by which he preserves what is ultimately valuable.

Ezekiel 36:23

*“And I will **vindicate** the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I **vindicate** my holiness before their eyes.”*

Exodus 34:6

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever would believe in him would not perish but have everlasting life.”

Ephesians 2:4-5

“But God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...”

1 John 4:8, 16

“God is love...God is love.”

The Doctrine of Divine Election

- The elders of Glory of Christ believe the Bible teaches that God knew and determined all who would be saved and not be saved before the foundation of the world.
- This presents a challenge to feeling the force of the truth that “God is love” because it makes God seem cold, unfeeling, and arbitrary.
- But the Bible clearly reveals that God is holy, good, wise, true, and that he is love and we must let these truths shape our understanding of election.

The Reality of Suffering

- Many who have suffered in this world have teetered on the precipice of unbelief, especially in the truth that God is love.
- Again, we must allow truth about God to shape how we think about circumstances not the other way around.

“God’s Delight in Being God”

- This phrase could mean that God simply delights in the outward acts of being God.
- However, it means that God not only delights in what he does but in who he is: he delights in pondering his own excellencies.
- God consciously and constantly thinks of, and enjoys the thought of, his own perfections and this is ultimately what it means to say that “God is love.”

Thoughts on John 17

- Vv 1-2: notice the repeated language of “Father-Son” (vv 1,2,5,11,12,21,24,25). Jesus addressed God as his Father over 100 times in the Gospel of John alone.
- Vv 4-5: by “glorified” (v 4) Jesus surely means that he exalted the Father but also that he caused the Father to delight in the Son. The essence of God’s glory is the mutual delight of the Father and the Son.

Thoughts on John 17

- Vv 24-26: Jesus notes twice that the Father glorified him because the Father loved him. This implies that the glory the Father gave to Jesus was, among other things, his delight in Jesus.

Conclusion...

- Jesus said these things for our sake, not the Father's or his own.
- In so doing, he gave us who love him a window into the intimacy and love and delight of the Father in the Son and vice versa.
- This love is the center of the center, the love of God for God, the delight of God in God. This is the ultimate meaning of the words "God is love" and it is the fountain from which all other love flows, including our love for one another.