

5 Reasons We Love God

Text : **I John 4: 7-21**

S#1.

A. In today's world only a minority of people believe in God or His Christ.

S#2.

1. World population is approximately ... **7.3 billion**
2. More than **15%** of those people (**1 Billion**) do not believe in any deity.
3. Christians are the single largest religion (**2.2 Billion**) but only **30%** of the total.
4. That means at least **70%** of the people on the planet do not love God.

S#3.

B. In our country those who do not love God are becoming increasingly aggressive.

1. They have expelled God from mention in school systems.
2. Other gods are advocated as equal or better.
3. The anti-God minority control both higher education and government.
4. People are even being killed because they are believers.

C. Vocal opponents of God argue that if He does exist He is evil.

1. Because of all the sickness and suffering that exists.
2. Because He allows natural disasters to cause such suffering. (*Earthquakes, floods*)
3. Because of all the wars and evil deeds that He allows men to commit.
4. Because He has killed so many people. (*The flood , genocide of Canaanites*)

D. The persecution of Christians around the world is a very real problems.

1. We should be praying for God to intervene in our behalf.
2. Every hour **11** Christians are killed for their faith.
3. The average amounts to **273** Christians killed each day.
4. More than **100,000** Christians are being killed each year because of their faith.

S#4.

**** Truly .. it's becoming increasingly dangerous to profess one's love for God.**

1. We must each ask ourselves :
 - a. Do I really love God ?
 - b. Is love God worth the danger ?
 - c. What cost am I willing to pay to love God ?
2. Our lesson today will address the question. **"Why should I love God."**
3. There are many reasons, we will look at only five.

I. God created this beautiful world and allows us to use it and care for it.**S#5.****A. The bible begins with the story of where we came from.**

1. **Gen. 1: 1** – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2. The succeeding verse explain how God created all things living on earth.

B. The specific agent of God's creation was God the Son.

1. Nothing exists that was not created by the Jesus .. God the Son. **S#6.**
John 1: 1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
2. Though God permits man to use His creation, it was created FOR HIM.
Col. 1: 16 – For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him **S#7.**

C. God retains ownership of all that He created, but allows us to use it.**S#8.**

1. The prophet clearly advocates that the earth still belongs to God. **S#9.**
Psa. 24: 1 – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.
2. Though God retains ownership of all, He consigned the earth to man.
Psa. 115: 16 – The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, But the earth He has given to the sons of men.
3. Though the earth is man's to use, God retains ownership.
Lev. 25: 23 – The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me. **S#10.**

D. We should love God for giving us the earth with its beauty and its bounty.**S#11.****II. God has given us life and an eternal soul.****S#12.****A. God gives life to each person who lives on the earth.**

1. When God created man, He placed within man some of His own life-force. **S#13.**
Gen. 2: 7 – Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being / soul.
2. God still gives life to all who live on the earth. **S#14.**
Neh. 9: 6 – You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

3. **Acts 17: 24-25** The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; **25** nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; ... **28** in Him we live and move and exist **S#15.**

B. Created in God's own image, man is a triune being ... body, souls & spirit. S#16.

1. **I Thes. 5: 23** – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. It's God who forms the spirit of a man while in his mother's womb. **Ps 139 S#17.**
Zech. 12: 1b – ... : Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him,
3. When a man dies his souls does not cease to exist.
Eccl. 12: 7 – then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. (**Remember Luke 16**)

C. At the resurrection all will come forth complete ... body, soul, & spirit. S#18.

1. The prophet of old spoke of that day.
Dan. 12:2 – Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.
2. **John 5: 27-28** ... Everyone will be resurrected ... some to reward others not
3. **I Thes. 4: 13-16** ... Jesus will bring the spirits and souls of the rising Christians

D. We should love God because He gives us this life and the one to come. S#19.

III. God sustains us with all that is good. S#20.

A. God provides for our physical needs. S#21.

1. All that we have that is good comes from God.
Jas. 1: 17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
3. He instructs us to trust Him to provide for our needs. **S#22.**
Matt. 6: 33 – "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

B. He has given us abundant spiritual blessings. S#23.

1. He has not withheld any spiritual blessing from us.
Eph. 1: 3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

2. He has revealed everything we need to know to be godly people.

II Pet. 1: 2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God **S#24.** and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- C. We should love God for all the ways He blesses us.

S#25.

S#26.

IV. God has given us free will.

S#27.

- A. God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. He could force compliance to His will.

1. God gave Adam and Eve a choice.

Gen. 2: 16-17 – Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

2. God gave the Israel of old a choice.

Deut. 11: 26-28a – See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: **S#29.** **27** the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today; **28** and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God,

3. God gives us a choice. (*Live for self or live for Him*)

Mark 8: 34-35 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to **S#30.** them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. **35** "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. (*live for self or live for God*)

- B. Whether for good or ill, every decision carries with it a consequence.

S#31.

1. Remember those in the Old Testament.

- a. Adam and Eve reaped death
- b. Abraham reaped reward.
- c. Israel reaped the promised curses ... defeat, captivity, destruction.

2. We are likewise warned :

Gal. 6: 7 – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, **S#32.** this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

3. But there is always a choice.

I Cor. 10: 13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; **#33.** and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape ...

S#34.

C. Even when we make bad choices, God will allow us to change our minds.

II Pet. 3: 9 – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

S#35.

D. Thus, we should all love God because He give us freedom to come to Him or not.

S#36.

V. We love God because He first loved us and wants to be with us eternally.

A. From creation God has loved us with an everlasting love.

S#37.

1. **Psa. 136: 1** – Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

2. The very essence of God is love.

I John 4: 8 – The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

16 – 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.

B. We love God because He first loved us.

S#38.

1. **I John 4: 19** – We love, because He first loved us.

2. God has very clearly demonstrated His love toward us.

a. **Rom. 5: 8** – But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. S#39.

b. **John 3: 16** – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

* *Get this ... while we were rebellious sinners ... God wanted us to be with him.* S#40.

3. God wants for us to know and to understand His love for us.

Eph. 3: 17-19 – so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. S#41.

C. Why ? Because God desires our love in return.

S#42.

1. **Matt. 22: 37-38** And he said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
38 This is the great and foremost commandment.'

2. **Luke 11: 42** – But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. S#43.

D. God knows who loves Him and whose love is growing cold.**S#44.**

1. God who knows man's motives (**I Cor. 4: 5**) knows those who love Him.

I Cor. 8:3 – but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

** With God, there is no such things as a secret admirer.*

2. God knows when men's love for Him is growing cold.

- a. Jesus warned that men's love for God would grow cold.

S#45.

Matt. 24: 12-13 – Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

- b. Jesus longs for us to keep our love for Him alive, strong, and vibrant.

Rev. 2:4-5 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. **S#46.**

5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.

CONCLUSION :**S#47.****A. Unrequited love has long been the plot of famous movies and novels.****S#48.**

1. Movies such as :

- a. Casablanca
 - b. Forest Gump
 - c. The Notebook

2. Novels such as :

- a. Twelfth Night by Wm. Shakespeare
 - b. Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
 - c. Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand

B. As opposition to God and Christianity grows stronger, we must keep evaluating our love for God, for His word and for His church.**S#49.**

1. Is our love growing stronger or are we taking Christ for granted ?
2. What affect is our love for God having on our life ?
3. Are we sharing God's love with others ?

INVITATION :**A. If you are a Christians, but your love is not growing .. recommit yourself.****S#50.****B. If you have not yet declared your love for God, do so by obeying the gospel.****S#51.****S#52. ... communion slide**

Lesson Text :**I John 4: 7: 21**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **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. **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. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. **14** We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **16** 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. **17** By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. **19** We love, because He first loved us. **20** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21** And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.