

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOVE OF GOD

AGAPE

THIS IS SEEN IN GOD'S:

ATTITUDE OF MERCY

GRACE

ALLIANCE WITH MAN

PROVIDENTIAL CARE

ENDURANCE

AMPLIFICATION

A - ATTITUDE OF MERCY

Ps.86:5

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Ps.106:1

Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Ps.103:4

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Titus 3:4-5

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Mercy is the attitude of God to those who are in trouble.

THIS ATTITUDE IS AT THREE LEVELS:-

[1]. PITY

Feeling of sorrow for someone in distress.

Is.63:9

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

[2]. SYMPATHY

Is.63:9a

In all their affliction He was afflicted.....

Simultaneously affected with the same feeling as another. Sharing another's motions. [Jesus is touched with the feelings of our infirmities (Heb.4:15)]

[3]. COMPASSION

Inward feeling followed by an outward action.

Example:-

1. The Good Samaritan (picture of Jesus) felt compassion for the injured man. He endangered his own life to take care of the injured man ([Luke 10:33](#)).
2. Compassion was also displayed in feeding the multitude ([Matt.15:32-38](#)).

G - GRACE

The Favor of God upon sinners.

e.g.

- [1]. GIFT OF HIS SON - given to all.

[John 3:16](#)

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.

[1John 4:9-10](#)

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

[Rom.5:8](#)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- [2]. GIFT OF SALVATION - given to those who obey the gospel.

[Eph.2:4-8](#)

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

[2Thess.2:16](#)

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,
SEE GRACE - THE VARIOUS FORMS OF THE GRACE OF GOD.

A - ALLIANCE WITH MAN

This is the friendship of God with man.

[Prov.17:17a](#)

A friend loveth at all times,.....

Prov.18:24

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

John 15:15

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Eph.5:2

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

SEE THE FRIENDSHIP OF GOD.

P - PROVIDENTIAL CARE

This is the goodness of God, the attribute by which He blesses and cares for His creatures.

Ps.121:5

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

Matt.5:45

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matt.6:26,28,30

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

28 And why take ye thought for raiment" Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith"

SEE PROVIDENCE - THE PROVIDENTIAL CARE OF GOD.

E - ENDURANCE

This is God's patience and long suffering with man.

1Cor.13:4a

Charity suffereth long, and is kind;?

Num.14:18

The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

Ps.86:15

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

1Pet.3:20

Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.