

The Beautiful God - pt 1

1 John 4:16b

“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

God is infinite in nature (beyond measure or limit). When the Bible states that God is love, it is saying that God's love is infinite - love without measure or limit. Think about this for a moment. Infinite love means a love so great that nothing can separate us from it. For I am convinced that (nothing) will be able to separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). Infinite love means a love so great that we need help in grasping the reality of it And I pray that you...may have power...to grasp how wide & long & high & deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:17-18). Infinite love means that no matter how we have sinned, because of his great love for us, God...made us alive with Christ even when we were dead (Ephesians 2:4-5). Infinite love is what Christmas is all about - coming to know & rely on the infinite love that God has for us (1 John 4:16a).

The Beautiful God - pt 2

1 John 4:16b

“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

Jesus is the disclosure of God's Beauty. As the Son of God and the Word of God, Jesus is Beauty incarnate or, the Beautiful God made visible in human form. “When the Son of God assumed the features of a human face, God restored to us a face in God's own true image...” (Fr. John Navone, Toward a Theology of Beauty). Jesus manifests the splendor of Supreme Beauty, the glory of the Father. It is this Beauty or glory that transforms the sinful human heart to be like Jesus. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

The Beautiful God - pt 3

Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests!”

The favor of the Beautiful God resting upon men on earth - think of it! God is a blessed, happy & beautiful God. His own thoughts are filled with delight & happiness as He considers His people (Psalm 149:4a). Out of His own delight & happiness His desire is to bless men on earth. God originally created man in His own image (Genesis 1:27) - God created man to bear His own image throughout the world. God added His blessing to man (Genesis 1:28). Man's choice to follow the voice of a stranger (Satan) marred that original image & the resulting sin crippled man from bearing the true image of his Creator. But God's intent was to restore the image and beauty of His original creation. The angel's announcement was that the favor (blessing) of God was resting once again upon man - through the birth of God's Son & man's Savior, once again the perfect image of the uncreated God was given to the human race. God through Jesus is exchanging the “ashes” of our sin & rebellion for the “crown of beauty” of His salvation (Isaiah 61:3 & Psalm 149:4b). The God who is Beauty is passionate about making us beautiful through His Son. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests!