



Jesus Christ, our All in all  
CrossTalk's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**22 – 28 Nov, 2020**

**God is Love**

**‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails’ 1 Cor 13:4-8a (NIV)**

**God is love**

- † When the apostle John spoke about the essential nature of God, he said two things: ‘God is light’ (1 Jn 1:5) and ‘God is love’ (1 Jn 4:8)**
- † Love is like a light, which reveals its component colors when it passes through a prism. These colors cannot be seen apart from the light and somehow each color blends into the colors adjacent to it. So it is with the components of love that Saint Paul describes in 1 Cor 13:4-8**

**God is Love; He is patient**

- † *‘They will say, ‘Where is this ‘coming’ He promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’ The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance’ 2 Pt 3, 9 (NIV)***
- † Jesus Christ was patient with the apostles, Thomas (Lk 24:33-49), Peter and Paul just as the Father was patient with the rebellion of Adam and Eve**

### God is Love; He is not self-seeking

- † *'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life'*  
*Jn 3:16*

### God is Love; He does not keep a record of wrongs

- † *'If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?'* *Ps 130:3 (NIV)*
- † *'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life'* *Jn 5:24*
- † Jesus Christ forgave Peter for denying Him, forgave the woman caught in adultery (*Jn 8:1-11*), forgave the people who crucified Him (*Lk 23:34*) and forgave the criminal on the Cross (*Lk 23:34*)
- † The Father forgave Jonah and the people of Nineveh when they repented. He did not hold any sin against them (*Jon 3, 4*)

### God is Love; He does not rejoice with evil

- † *'Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter'* *Is 5:20*
- † *'But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea'* *Mt 18:6*
- † Christ came to earth to save us from all evil
- † Love finds no pleasure in doing wrong nor in supporting what is wrong. In other words, love does not participate in sin

### God is Love; He never gives up

- † He wants us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven

### God is Love; He is eternal

- † All things will fade away, all that we own will be gone. Love is eternal
- † When we leave this world and go to live eternally with God, only love reigns there

### Love

- † Christ revealed the Father, Who is love

- † The miracles that Jesus Christ did revealed His love; He healed the lepers, He fed the hungry, He made the blind see, and as John says in the last verse of his gospel *'And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen' Jn 21:25*
- † He healed the centurion's servant (*Mt 8:5-13*). God's love is unconditional and reaches out to all, Jews and Gentiles, officers and servants, rich and poor
- † *'Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God' 1Cor 10:31.* Through that we will live on the image of God and we will love the way He loves

### C S Lewis on 'God is Love'

- † 'All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that 'God is love'. But they seem not to notice that the words 'God is love' have no real meaning unless God contains at least two Persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love. Of course, what these people mean when they say that God is love is often something quite different: they really mean 'Love is God'. They really mean that our feelings of love, however and wherever they arise, and whatever results they produce, are to be treated with great respect. Perhaps they are: but that is something quite different from what Christians mean by the statement 'God is love'. They believe that the living, dynamic activity of love has been going on in God forever and has created everything else
- † And that, by the way, is perhaps the most important difference between Christianity and all other religions: that in Christianity God is not a static thing— ... but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, almost a kind of drama. Almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance...
- † If you think of the Father as something 'out there', in front of you, and of the Son as someone standing at your side, helping you to pray, trying to turn you into another son, then you have to think of the third Person as something inside you, or behind you. Perhaps some people might find it easier to begin with the third Person and work backwards. God is love, and that love works through men—especially through the whole community of Christians. But this spirit of love is, from all eternity, a love going on between the Father and the Son

- † God loves us not because we are loveable but because He is love. And because He is love, He can only will what is best for us, which is to be transformed into a being of holy love like Himself. He will settle for nothing less. As we meditate on God's love for us, especially in the cross of Christ, our love for God and our neighbor will increase, and our hearts will become more and more like God's — filled with love
- † Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained

### Bibliography

1. Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: Macmillan, 1960
2. Lewis, C. S. *The Problem of Pain*. HarperOne; Revised ed. edition (April 28, 2015)
3. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

### Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

### Verse to memorize

'Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another' 1 John 4:11

### During this coming week, we will the Greek Orthodox church in prayer

<u>الصلاة الربانية</u>	<u>قانون الايمان</u>
أبانا الذي في السموات	أؤمن بالله واحد، أب ضابط الكل
ليتقدس إسمك	خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
ليأت ملكوتك	ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب
ليتك مشيبتك	قبل كل الدهور، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق، مولود غير
كما في السماء	مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر، الذي به كان كل شيء
كذلك على الأرض	الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا، نزل من السماء،
خبرنا الجوهري أعطنا اليوم	وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء وتأنس، وصلب
واثرك لنا ما علينا	عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي، وتآلم وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث
كما نترك نحن	على ما في الكتب، وصعد إلى السماء، وجلس عن يمين الأب،
لمن لنا عليه	وأيضاً يأتي بمجد، ليدين الأحياء والأموات، الذي لا فناء لملكه
ولا ندخلنا في تجربة	وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي، المُنبتق من الأب، الذي هو مع
لكن نجنا من الشرير	الأب والإبن، مسجود له ومُمجّد، الناطق بالأنبياء
أمين	وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
	وأعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
	وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي. آمين