

## **Blue Man Group Theology...God Is Love**

I want to thank Pastor Rolly for giving me the chance to share with you today. As most of you know, I went to Dare2Share at Hylton Chapel with the teenagers and some of our adult volunteers. I was really stoked by what I saw and experienced with our youth... 3,000 teens ready to grow in God and share the message of The Gospel with others. So, as I was preparing this sermon, I keep thinking of the youth; which is why I was led to title this message Blue Man Group Theology.

### **1. Love Revealed**

One day, little Jimmy was laying about on a hillock in the meadow on a warm spring day. Puffy white clouds rolled by and he pondered their shape. Soon, he began to think about God. "God? Are you really there?" Jimmy said out loud. To his astonishment a voice came from the clouds.

"Yes, Jimmy? What can I do for you?"

Seizing the opportunity, Jimmy asked, "God? What is a million years like to you?"

Knowing that Jimmy could not understand the concept of infinity, God responded in a manner to which Jimmy could relate, "A million years to me, Jimmy, is like a minute."

"Oh," said Jimmy. "Well, then, what's a million dollars like to you?"

"A million dollars to me, Jimmy, is like a penny."

"Wow!" remarked Jimmy, getting an idea, "You are so generous ... can I have one of your pennies?"

God replied, "Sure thing, Jimmy! JUST A MINUTE."

What Jimmy realized was God's character of generosity. In our Wednesday prayer meetings, we have been studying the names of God. What we have been learning is that God's names reveal His character...His personality, to us. Today, we are going to look at who God is. In the devotional I wrote for the February newsletter, I said this is something every 3-year-old understands and theologians struggle to explain. Turn to 1 John 4:8. In the King James Version it reads "he that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John, with the possible exception of Song of Solomon, is the most intimate of the inspired writings. It is written as a family letter from The Father to His "little children." John was the pastor to a church where there were people who didn't want to believe the love Jesus reveals, or the God Jesus reveals; they wanted to make up their own ideas of God, and their own styles of love. 1 John was written to reestablish who God is through Jesus Christ.

This simple statement found in 1 John 4:8 "God is Love" needs to be reestablished for us, also. Our concept of God is formed through our relationship with our fathers. If we grew up without a father or our fathers were distant, we see God as being distant. If our fathers

were unapproachable, we see God as unapproachable. If our fathers were demanding and punished us when we disobeyed...and these was our only interactions with our fathers, we see God as ready to zap us when we mess up.

We are created in the image of God. It says in Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image." We have this innate desire to be loved. As the great theologian Toby Mac said, "we were made to love, and be loved by You." God wants to show us His love, and Himself, through His Son. In Galatians 4:6 God says "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Abba is the Aramaic word for papa. So I want you to realize that God is love...realize it, believe it, claim it, cling to it, accept it, grab it, hold it, feel it!

(Blue Man Group video clip)

## **2. Love Expressed**

Now, what does the love of God look like? Let's turn to Galatians 5:22-23. Reading from the King James version, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." When we come to a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, God through the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of The Spirit in our lives. We develop His character in our lives that cannot be developed through our efforts or anything else apart from Him. Let's look at the various aspects of this fruit.

Love-The moral goodwill that comes from respect and dedication to the undeserving, despite disappointment and rejection.

Joy-The attitude of deep satisfaction of our positive position in God. It is NOT dependent on circumstances.

Peace- The absence of worry. In Philippians 4:7 it reads "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

The hymn "It Is Well With My Soul" was written by Chicago lawyer and friend of D.L. Moody Horatio G Spafford in 1873. Horatios' family set sail to England on the French steamer "Ville de Havre" while Horatio stayed in Chicago to finish some business. Nine days later, he received a telegram from his wife in Wales that read "Saved alone."

On November 2, 1873, the "Ville de Havre" collided with English vessel "The Lochearn." The "Ville de Havre" sank in 12 minutes, claiming the lives of 226 people. His wife Anna bravely stood on the deck with her daughters Annie, Maggie, Bessie and Tanetta clinging desperately to her. Her last memory had been of her baby being torn violently from her arms by the force of the waters. Anna was only saved from the fate of her daughters by a plank which floated beneath her unconscious body and propped her up. When the survivors of the wreck had been rescued, Mrs. Spafford's first reaction was

one of complete despair. Then she heard a voice speak to her, “You were spared for a purpose.” And she immediately recalled the words of a friend, “It’s easy to be grateful and good when you have so much, but take care that you are not a fair-weather friend of God.”

Upon hearing the terrible news, Horatio Spafford boarded the next ship out of New York to join his bereaved wife. Bertha Spafford, the fifth daughter of Horatio and Anna born later, explained that during her fathers’ voyage, the captain of the ship had called him to the bridge. “A careful reckoning has been made,” he said, “and I believe we are now passing the place where the de Havre was wrecked. The water is three miles deep.” Horatio then returned to his cabin and penned the lyrics of this great hymn.

The words which Spafford wrote that day come from 2 Kings 4:26. They echo the response of the Shunammite woman to the sudden death of her only child. Though we are told “her soul is vexed within her,” she still maintains that “it is well.”

Longsuffering-This is patience with others faults and behaviors.

Gentleness-This is being courteous, quiet, tender and unharsh in our words and actions.

Goodness-This is the kindness, generosity and compassion we show to others

Faith-This is trust. It is having that assurance that God is in control and wants what is best for us. It is realized in the promise of Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Meekness-The concept of deferring to Gods’ will and way. It is almost synonymous with humbleness.

Temperance-This is self-control over fleshly lusts and desires.

When we realize the love of God through His Son Jesus, this is the character He gives us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. This is what others see when they look at us. This is Gods’ love expressed through us.

### **3. Love In Action**

Now, we have looked at what love is...or who love is, and what love looks like in our lives as believers in Jesus. But love is more than feeling and more than character. Love is a verb; it’s an action word and God’s love is only fully realized though action. Let’s turn to James 2. I’m going to read from The Message starting in verse 14

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without

clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

Brian Nichols was standing trial for an alleged rape in Atlanta on March 11, 2005. He was being guarded by a small female deputy that he overpowered just before the jury entered the courtroom. With her gun, he killed the judge, the court reporter and another deputy. He also shot the female deputy he overpowered. While on the run, Nichols killed a federal agent.

Nichols 'randomly' picked Ashley at about 2:30 PM on March 12, 2005. He tied her up. She was concerned her five-year-old daughter would become an orphan. Ashley had lost her own husband, four years earlier, when he was stabbed to death and died in her arms. She talked with Nichols and asked his permission to read to him from "The Purpose Driven Life." She read Day 33 of the book, where author Rick writes, "We serve God by serving others. The world defines greatness in terms of power, possessions, prestige, and position. If you can demand service from others, you've arrived. In our self-serving culture with its me-first mentality, acting like a servant is not a popular concept." He asked to hear it again. They talked and she read to him from the Bible.

"After we began to talk, he said he thought that I was an angel sent from God and that I was his sister and he was my brother in Christ and that he was lost and God led him right to me to tell him that he had hurt a lot of people," Smith told reporters. "And the families -- the people -- to let him know how they felt because I had gone through it myself." "But after I started to read to him, he saw -- I guess he saw my faith and what I really believed in. And I told him I was a child of God and that I wanted to do God's will. I guess he began to want to. That's what I think," she said.

Ashley and Nichols watched TV together. The search for him was the largest manhunt in Georgia history. Nichols said he could not believe he had done those things. She told him he couldn't hurt anyone else. In the morning, before he released her, she made him breakfast.

Nichols let Smith go to pick up her daughter after breakfast. She believed he knew she was going to turn him in, because he knew the kind of person she was, but he let her go anyway. She called 911 and reported where he was. He gave himself up, without further violence to the authorities.

Nichols actions almost certainly saved further people from being injured. She is a humble hero whose actions proclaim her faith. Was this all 'random' as I suggested earlier? I don't think so.

See, God is love. When we come to God through faith in His Son, we accept that love; and that love is manifested in our lives through the Holy Spirit. And as a child of God, we have to share that love with others...because that is what God does, because that is who God is.

(Blue Man Group "I Feel Love" video)

If you are a child of the Father, a brother of the Son, go and show that love of God to others to bring others to our family, the family of God. And if you haven't realized that love of God, now is the chance. Everyone bow your heads and close your eyes...