



## GOD'S LENS OF LOVE

If you use prescription eyeglasses like I do, you probably know the importance of the configuration of the lenses to your having accurate vision. Several factors contribute to the optical precision of your corrective lenses. The shape and thickness of the lenses determine the curvature of light that passes on to the optic center of your brain, depending on whether you are near-sighted or far-sighted. If you use eyeglasses that are not specifically prescribed for your eyes, your vision will be blurred or distorted. You might be dizzy or disoriented and you will be unable to judge distances, making it unsafe for you to drive your car.

When God created human beings, He designed them to view the earth and all creatures through the lens of His love. When they view God through His lens of love, they will rule the earth and relate to each other in the same way God rules heaven and relates to all of His creation – in love. This is the reason why God made Adam and Eve in His own image. Humanity was created for love because their Creator is love. Man was originally created with the capacity to love God and each other unconditionally. They were meant to see everything through the lens of God's love. Their lens of love was part of the life-spirit that God breathed into Adam after God formed man with His own hands. Adam's life-spirit was connected to God's Spirit in love and he was able to enjoy intimacy with God.

Adam was disconnected from God's spirit when he sinned. Adam and Eve immediately experienced spiritual death, which is the loss of their God-given capacity to see God and His creation through God's lens of love. Through their unbelief, they exchanged their lens of love for Satan's lens of lies. Since then, sinful humanity can only view God and His creation through Satan's lens of lies. Their view of God is based on Satan's deceptive distortions and, consequently, their view of each other is also based on Satan's continuing fraud. Satan's lies about God have been passed on from generation to generation until people have come to believe them as universal truth.

All human religions are based on the lie that God is not loving and must be appeased by man's sacrifices of good works and self-denial. This is what man sees through the lens of lies. And it keeps people from being reconciled with their loving Creator. It's ironic that most people who rely on their religion to placate their own version of God with admirable sincerity are really farther away from the true God they inwardly seek

and truly desire.

The Bible says that God's enemy has blinded the people of this world so that they don't see and believe the truth of a loving God (**2 Cor. 4:4**). So what's the solution? How is man's lost lens of love to be restored so he could see once more the God who never stopped loving him? The answer lies in the reason why God created man. God made us for an intimate relationship with Him. By making us in His image, He designed us to relate to Him only in response to His love. God made it impossible for us to be intimate with Him if we were motivated by fear, greed, or any other "ungodly" desire.

Even in our sinful state, we still retain a remnant but dim shadow of God's image of love. The worst sinner still craves love, acceptance and significance from someone higher and more important than himself. While the Fall disqualified man from the rulership of God's earth kingdom, he still has inside him – however weak it might be – the ability to respond to God's love. When born-again believers – who now have the ability to see God and His creation through His lens of love – share their God of love, godless and unbelieving people will respond. Why? Because they were made to relate to God in response to His unconditional love.

I am grateful for having enjoyed the joy and blessings of the Gospel of salvation by grace alone since 1970. But it is only during the last few years of my ministry with Gospel Life that I have begun to develop a deeper understanding of this principle: God created us for a love relationship with Him and we can only be redeemed by His grace because we could respond to nothing else but His love. If we Christians know and believe this, we cannot continue to insist, expressly or implicitly, that people's salvation or perdition is in any way based on what they do or don't do to earn or keep God's love and acceptance.

Our Heavenly Father is a loving God who made us for intimacy with Him. Sin did not alter His eternal purpose and destiny for us. Through His lens of love, He still sees us as His beloved sons and daughters who have been predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son even before He made us (**Rom. 8:29**). To accomplish His purpose, He will woo and draw us to Himself with His everlasting love (**Jer. 31:3**). And with His lovingkindness, He will lead us to change our minds, turning our lens of lies into His lens of love. Then we will know for eternity that God is love and He is all we want because we were created for love.