

# Christ's Heart Towards His Bride

## Did Jesus die for us for our sake, or for His glory?

### Jesus died for us for the sake of God's glory

- Psalm 25:11; Isaiah 43:25; 1 John 2:12

### Jesus died for us out of love

- John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-6

## God's Sincere Love in Our Salvation

### 1: If God died for us *only* for the sake of His glory, it wouldn't even be glorious

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; Matthew 6:1-4

### 2: God doesn't have love for the sake of His glory, God is love

- God doesn't have love in His heart just for the sake of His glory, He has love in His heart because it's who He is to have love in His heart (1 John 4:8)
- The idea that God doesn't naturally have a passionate desire for our wellbeing, and that He only decides to care about our wellbeing for the sake of His glory, is just as ridiculous as that idea that God woke up one day and said, "Ya know what, I think it'd be really cool if I were omnipresent. I'm going to do that. I'm going to be omnipresent now." God really does have an extremely strong selfless love that is part of who He is, and is its own end in itself, not some outworking of His desire for His glory. There is no deeper motive; He just cares just cause He cares; it's who He is.

### 3: God sincerely cares about the non-elect, which means He sincerely cares about everyone

- If God cares about the non-elect, surely He truly cares about the elect as well, and doesn't merely treat them well just for the sake of His glory
- And God does, in fact, care *greatly* about the non-elect (Jeremiah 48:29-33)
- If God sincerely cares about the non-elect such that He is grieved over their suffering, it's because He just plain cares about everyone. It's part of who He is.

### 4: Along with the love God has for everyone, God has a special love for the elect

- Ephesians 2:4-6; Deuteronomy 10:15
- God is not partial (Romans 2:9-11)
- This isn't partiality, this is the difference between God's universal love, and God's covenant love
- Although God has an intense love for every human that exists, the elect and the non-elect alike, on top of that, Christ has chosen the elect as His bride, and He has set His heart on her in a special way
- But it's not as though Christ loves us more than the Father does; this covenant love is from every person of the Trinity (John 17:9-10, 20, 22-23)
- God loves everyone who exists, the elect and the non-elect alike, but He has a special love, a covenant love, for His bride, His chosen, the elect.

## Summary

- God saves us for His glory, *and* out of sincere and selfless love for us
- God's love for His people is far greater than you can imagine

## Did God create us for intimacy with Him, or for His glory?

- Again, this isn't "False Dichotomies Between *Calvinism* and *Arminianism*", it's "False Dichotomies Between Calvinists and Arminians." And even though most Calvinists and Arminians might not deny that both of these are true, Calvinists and Arminians will often focus on one to the almost complete exclusion of the other
- Both are true, and we need to not downplay either of them

### God created us for His glory

- Isaiah 43:6-7

### God created us for relationship with Him

- John 17:3

### The real issue

- The real dichotomy here isn't about which one of these ideas is true, it's a question of which one is *more true*...
  - Is God more focused on His glory, or more focused on relationship...

### How they fit together

- The truth of the matter is that if God greatly delights in seeing His glory, it only makes sense that He'd passionately desire intimacy with His people

### If God enjoys His glory being shown, He'll want us to know Him

- It's clear that God does want us to see His glory as part of our knowing Him (John 17:24)
- Frankly this one is kind of obvious that if God delights in His glory being shown, He'll want us to know Him. But true relationship requires more than that. Us merely knowing Him would be too one-sided. A relationship has to go both ways. It's not only that God delights in us getting to know Him, but He thoroughly enjoys knowing us

### If God enjoys seeing His glory, He'll want to know us

- God made you in His image
- God is conforming you to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29-30)
- So If God loves seeing, experiencing, and knowing His own glory, that means He loves seeing, experiencing, and knowing *you*
- If God the Father delights in having relationship with God the Son, then of course He'd delight in having a relationship with you
- Galatians 4:8-9
  - It's not only that God wants us to know Him, but He also wants to know us
  - He's knows everything about us because He's omniscient... But He wants to know us relationally. He wants to have a close, personal relationship with His children
  - And His great desire for His glory, doesn't diminish that desire for relationship, it makes His desire to be close to us all the greater

### God greatly desires to be close to us

- Throughout the Bible, the Scriptures point to God wanting a close relationship with us
- We are God's children (Jeremiah 31:20; Galatians 4:6)
- Jesus and His disciples (Mark 3:14; John 15:13-15, 13:23)
- We are Christ's bride (Ephesians 5:25-32)

### Summary

- God greatly desires to have a close relationship with you. He enjoys you, and all the grand amount of delight He has in His own glory, is just more reason why He would enjoy you knowing Him and Him knowing you