

The Doctrines of Grace

Doctrine 1-The Absolute Sovereignty of God

Part B

Part B- Why Does God Do What He Does?

Isaiah 46:9-11

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Isaiah 43:1-21

43 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

8 Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

14 Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

16 Thus saith the LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters;

17 Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down together, they shall not rise: they are extinct, they are quenched as tow.

18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

20 The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

21 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

1John 2:12

I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

It is evident that God moves throughout His Creation. God creates; He raises up and pulls down. He saves and forgives; he judges and damns. Human history testifies to the Providence of God intervening in the affairs of Man. But *why* does God do what He does? Why does God do *this*, but not *that*? Is God arbitrary or does the Bible teach us that there is an overriding Principle or Passion that motivates all of God's Actions and Words?

The main goal of this Second Section is to give you Biblical Evidence that will show you the primary Reason behind all of God's Thoughts; Actions; Deeds; Words; and Desires. In this Section we will find that the Holy Bible declares that there are three main Reasons why God does what He does:

1. For His Own Glory
2. For His Name's Sake
3. So that the people of the earth will know that there is none like unto God

The God that we just finished studying in the previous Section is infinitely *worthy* of Glory. A Being Who has all of the Attributes that we studied *deserves* adoration and worship and obedience. It is the summation of all that God is- in all His Excellencies- that make Him to be God. And because that is true- we learned that we are not *noble* for worshipping a God like this- we are simply giving to God that which God is *entitled* to receive from His Own Creation.

Psalms 147:1

Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely (beautiful; fitting; appropriate).

Through the Biblical Information to which you have been exposed in the previous Section- it is my prayer that you have come to the informed and reasoned conclusion that it is right and proper for Man to worship and obey and love this great God- and that it is evil, wicked, and sinful not to. And we also found out that the degree to which we truly *enjoy* and *delight ourselves* in worshipping God is predicated on the amount of Biblical Truth that we understand about Him. It is impossible for human beings to love and serve (on any meaningful level) an "unknown god". So the full and correct Biblical knowledge of God is the catalyst or foundation for our love for God and our service to God and our worship of God.

A Principal that must be understood is that love- true love; real love; deep and abiding love is predicated upon three things being true:

- A. We must Respect the one we love
- B. We must Admire the one we love
- C. We must be in Awe of the one we love

And without those three things being present- human beings may have some level of affection for another- but true love that is deep and abiding will not exist. But respect, admiration, and awe for another is predicated on us having knowledge of the one we desire to love. It is common to hear people say, "In order to love someone- you have to spend time with them". And this is true. But I suggest that the reason why you have to spend time with the one that you hope to love is so you may know and understand them better.

Therefore, as our knowledge of God grows and becomes richer and fuller and more Biblical- our respect and admiration and awe of God will also grow. And as these three qualities grow in us- our love for God will become deep and abiding. And that kind of love, in turn, will produce the kind of devotion and obedience and worship that God deserves.

So it is the intent of this Study to teach that full and right Biblical Knowledge of God produces these three qualities in saved people that are *required* to love God, and this kind of deep and abiding love will then produce humble and joyful service and worship towards this Great God.

God Knows God

But we must understand that since God is Omniscient and knows everything about everything- no one understands God better than God Himself. All of the Excellencies of God that we studied in the previous Section (along with those Qualities that God did *not* choose reveal to Man) are known by God in complete fullness.

We struggle to comprehend all that God is because our minds are finite and limited due to the fact that we are fallen. We also struggle to know and understand God because God did not choose to reveal everything about Himself to us. But God has no such limitations, and thus God's Knowledge of Himself is Perfect and has no limitations. Therefore we must conclude that God knows and understands God better than anyone else in all the Universe.

The Fall of Adam destroyed Man's knowledge of God (which in turn destroyed Man's love for God), and part of the infinite value of Salvation is that through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in the infinitely superior New Covenant- God graciously *restores* this knowledge of Himself to unworthy sinners.

Isaiah 11:1-9

11 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Jeremiah 24:7

And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

God Loves God

Since it is true that knowledge produces those three qualities of respect, admiration, and awe- we must conclude that since God knows God in all His Fullness- then God also holds these very same qualities about Himself. God respects God; God admires God and God is in awe of God. And since those three qualities in turn produce a deep and abiding love- we must conclude that two things are true about the God of the Bible:

1. God loves God more deeply and more profoundly than anyone else loves God
2. God loves God more deeply and more profoundly than He loves anyone or anything else

And since it is true that because of all His Manifest Excellencies- no one in all of Creation is more *worthy* or *deserving* of that awe inspiring love than the one true living God- it is this kind of love that, from the very beginning, God *requires* and *demands* from His Creation.

Deuteronomy 6:4&5

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 30:19&20

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

As the Lord Jesus Christ walked the earth- He confirmed this fundamental Principle:

Mark 12:28-31

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, **The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:**

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Let me repeat this Principle once again. Since it is true that because of all His Manifest Excellencies- no one in all of Creation is more *worthy* or *deserving* of that awe inspiring love than the one true living God- it is this kind of deep, abiding love (that springs forth from the Respect, Admiration, and Awe that is birthed in Biblical Knowledge) that God *requires* and *demand*s from His Creation.

Exodus 20:1-17

20 And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

God is passionately jealous about His Creation having the very same Love for Him that flows out of Respect, Admiration, and Awe that He has for Himself. And as we have seen in the above passages- God does not *request* or *ask* this Love from His Creation- He *demand*s it and He *expect*s it and He *require*s it- precisely because He is *entitled* to receive it!

The Fall of Adam destroyed Man's love for God, and part of the infinite value of Salvation is that through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in the infinitely superior New Covenant- God graciously *restores* this Love for Himself to unworthy sinners.

Ezekiel 36:22-27

22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

1John 4:19

We love him, because he first loved us.

And this kind of deep and abiding Love is manifested in saved people in many ways:

- ✓ Respect

- ✓ Admiration
- ✓ Awe
- ✓ Obedience
- ✓ Repentance
- ✓ Fear
- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Adoration
- ✓ Praise

And the accumulation of all of these acts that genuinely saved people offer to God in loving and grateful *response* to what God has already Sovereignly done in their hearts to save them- is what the Bible refers to as:

Giving God Glory

All of God's Creation is *commanded* to give God the Glory that He *deserves* and that He is *entitled* to receive from that which He made:

Psalms 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Psalms 148

1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He hath also established them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:

8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

9 Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:

10 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

11 Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

12 Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

14 He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

2Thessalonians 1:7-12

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because God is the single most Important and Valuable and Worthy Being in all the Universe; and because God knows this better than anyone else; and because of the great Love (that is birthed in Respect, Admiration, and Awe) that God has for Himself- God is determined in all His Omnipotent Power and Might that He will receive all Glory and all Honor and all Praise from that which He made and that which belongs to Him.

Therefore the catalyst behind all of what God Says and Does throughout His entire Universe- including Creation and Salvation and Heaven and Hell is the Great Passion that God has to be Glorified.

Does This Mean That God is Egotistical?

Because we seldom teach what the Bible reveals about the Nature and Character of God in the modern Church- many times when the subject of God's Worth and Value comes up- or the subject of God being passionate about receiving Glory comes up- it sounds odd or strange- and it *seems* to say to us that God must be egotistical to care about His Own Glory and to want everyone to praise Him. So we need to ask the question: *Does the Bible teach that God is egotistical?*

And to answer that question- we need to ask a series of questions:

- ✓ *Is the one true living God Who is revealed in the Bible the single most important and valuable and lovely and powerful Being in the Universe?*
- ✓ *If that is true- then is this God not deserving of all Glory?*
- ✓ *Is this God not entitled to receive all Glory?*
- ✓ *Is there anything or anyone more worthy of Glory or even as worthy of Glory than God?*
- ✓ *Who deserves more Glory- God or Man?*

If sinful fallen Man desired to be known and loved and worshipped and adored and glorified like this- then, yes, that man would be egotistical and he would be self-righteous and he would be evil. For any human being to desire to be glorified is ugly and distasteful on a fundamental level. Why? Because manifestly

no human being is worthy of that Glory; no human deserves that Glory; and no human is entitled to receive that Glory- precisely because all men are sinful.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

But the one, true, living God of the Bible *is* deserving; this God *is* worthy; and this God *is* entitled. So it is precisely because of the infinite Value and Worth of God that allows for God to know Himself, and to love Himself, and to passionately desire (and demand) to be glorified like this, and still *not* be egotistical or sinful or distasteful- but to be absolutely correct.

Deuteronomy 32:3&4

3 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God Loves God More Than God Loves Man

And because all of what is taught above is true- therefore the most important Being in all the Universe to God is not Man- it is God. It is manifestly clear that the reason why God says that *we* are to love God with all *our* heart, soul, mind and strength (**Mark 12:30**) is because God loves God with all His Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength. The reason why God said it is wrong for *us* to have other gods before the one true living God (**Exodus 20:3**) is because God has no other gods before Himself.

Now the Bible is crystal clear that from cover to cover- God loves Man. But we must understand that even though that is true- God does *not* love Man more or even to the same degree as God loves Himself. If He did- then God would be holding Man above God and that would be idolatry.

So it is foremost in God's Mind and Heart that all of Creation agree with God- that God is infinitely *worthy of* and *entitled to receive* all Praise and all Glory and all Honor from that which He made.

Exodus 14:17&18

17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

The Revelation 4:11

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The Revelation 5:11&12

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

So because God knows that God is the most valuable and Important Being in all the Universe, and because that Perfect Knowledge allows for God to love God more than we do- the ultimate Passion of God is that God receives all Glory, Praise and Honor.

Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images

And never is this more true than in Salvation where the entire concept of Redemption was created and established by God so that He alone is praised when unworthy sinners are saved by His Grace and Mercy.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Ephesians 1:3-12

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**
- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**
- 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**
- 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;**
- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:**
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:**
- 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**
- 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

Ephesians 2:8&9

- 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**
- 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

For God to be the very Center of the Universe is not egoism, but merely the only proper place for God to be. And for God's main Passion to be that He alone receive all the Glory- God simply operating in the only normal way that is suitable for God to act.

What would be utterly *abnormal* is for this infinitely Worthy and Valuable God to place as much or more love on Man than Himself, or for God to seek to glorify Man as much or more than Himself. In fact- it would be sinful for God to do that.

So it is my contention that these three concepts listed on Page 2, as to why God does and says everything, are really one and the same. For God to do something "For My Glory!" (**Isaiah 43:7**) is the same thing as God doing that thing "For my Name's Sake" (**1John 2:12**), and that is the same as God doing something "So that they will know that there is none like Me in all the earth" (**Exodus 9:14**).

For what greater reason would God do something other than for His Own Glory? To exalt Man? For the sake of His Creation? If God did something that would honor or glorify anything or anyone else beside Himself- would that not be, by definition, blasphemy or idolatry?

Isaiah 48:11

For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

1Corinthians 1:25-29

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

It is a sure sign of our "fallenness" and a result of real bad Theology that we creatures (and sinful at that) would think that this magnificent God would ever do *anything* that would rob Himself of Glory, and give that Glory to us or anything else that He has made.

Yet that is precisely what much of the teaching of the modern Church does- it elevates Man and lowers God by teaching that the Focus of what God does is Man and *his* glory rather than Himself and His Own Glory.

How comforting it is to serve a Sovereign God- Whose End Result of all that He does is the preservation of His Own Holy Character and Nature.

Is God Fair?

The question arises many times that seeks to understand if the one true living God of the Bible is "fair". First we must establish that God is certainly not *unfair*- but the Bible is very clear about this issue- the Scriptures do not teach that God is "fair," at least not in the human way in which we think about that term.

But we must be careful to understand that when we say that God is not "fair"- that doesn't mean that God is evil or that He is incorrect or improper or unjust in any way. He is not. And neither is God arbitrary or haphazard- in fact, no one in all the Universe is more Stable and more Measured and more Sure and more Good than God. The best way to understand this is to say that God is "Just" rather than Fair.

Mercy is not Fair

So God is *better* than fair- because many times, God does *not* give us what we *deserve*- He gives us Mercy instead. And Mercy- by definition- is not "fair". If God only gave us what we *deserve*- all of Mankind would immediately be consumed in the Fury of God's Just Wrath because we are all guilty of sin.

Romans 3:10-18

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

And we also must realize that God is not concerned in the least about having to measure up to some fallen human standard of what is or is not "fair". God is concerned with being God- and that His Will and His Purpose is carried out in the Universe that He owns outright, and that He is Glorified. So ultimately the real question that we need to answer is this:

Is it permissible with us for God to be and act like God and not like Man?

Exodus 34:6&7

6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Psalms 50:21b

... thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself...

Isaiah 55:8&9

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Matthew 5:44&45

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

How Should We Respond to This?

Now that we know that God does all that He does for His Own Glory- how should we respond to this?

1Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

For us to do *anything* for any reason other than for God's Glory dishonors God and brings Glory to Man. The Bible calls such action- sin.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Sin is defined as us coming short of giving God all Glory. So everything that seeks to rob God of the Glory that is only due to Him, or anything that seeks to steal some of the Glory and give it to something or someone else - is sin.

Therefore we conclude that since God is all that the Bible reveals Him to be- and because God is infinitely deserving of and entitled to receive all Glory- therefore any effort by anyone to do anything- including preaching or leading someone to Christ; including eating food or drinking water- if that thing is not done in full faith to the Glory of God alone- *does not* and *cannot* honor God and is therefore sin.

And we further conclude that because God is everything that the Bible reveals Him to be; and because God knows this better than anyone else; and because God loves Himself Perfectly- therefore God does everything that He does; He says everything that He says for one overriding reason:

For My Glory!

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

Recap of Part B

1. What are the three Biblical phrases that describe why God does what He does throughout His Creation? _____

2. What does the word “**comely**” mean in **Psalms 147:1** _____
3. Why is praising God “**comely**”? _____
4. What three things develop deep and abiding love? _____

5. What is the foundation of those three things? _____
6. Why is it important to understand that God knows God Perfectly? _____

7. What happened to Man’s knowledge of God in the Fall? _____

8. What will restore it? _____
9. Why is it important to know that God loves God Perfectly? _____

10. What happened to Man’s love for God in the Fall? _____
11. What will restore it? _____
12. What is the accumulation of all the things listed on pages 7&8 called? _____

13. How is God *not* being Egotistical when He desires to be glorified and worshipped? _____

14. Who does God love more than Man? _____
15. Why is this correct and proper? _____
16. Why is God *not* Fair? _____
17. Does that mean that God is unfair? _____

18. How should we respond to all of this? _____

19. Explain how our American sense of Democracy and Freedom and Equality could hinder a Biblical understanding of the Absolute Sovereignty of God _____
