

Lesson 1

Why Worthy

(NASB), Paul prays that we would “know the love of Christ which passes knowledge . . .” He’s talking about revelation, which is much deeper and profound, much more lasting than knowledge, and deeply impacts the heart. Having such revelation of God’s love is a heart-changer, a life-changer, a worship changer.

How can you receive revelation of God’s love? There are many ways, but perhaps the primary way is to worship God. Sincerely spending time with God, alone in worship, brings you to His throne. And at His throne, believers are in awe and wonderment as they encounter His love. And our instinctive response to this kind of worship is greater worship. Why? The answer is found in Psalm 16:11 (ESV), “In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” The Father fills us with unimaginable and unspeakable joy as we worship Him.

Once you have truly experienced God’s love, once you’ve had a revelation of His great love for you, we believe you’ll instinctively be driven out of love to worship and serve Him in spirit and in truth.

So yes, a compelling argument should be made that God’s goodness stems from His love and is perhaps the most powerful and beloved expression of His love.

But what about God’s grace? Isn’t grace one of His defining attributes as well? John 1:14 (NIV) tells us, “We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” In speaking to Thomas, one of the apostles, Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9, ESV). Earlier, at the Feast of Dedication, Jesus told a group of Jewish listeners, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30, ESV). Since Jesus and the Father are one, the Father is also full of grace and truth.

Our Father is also a merciful God. The Scriptures mention mercy 174 times. They talk of His abundant mercy (Psalm 86:15), say that His mercy is great (2 Samuel 24:14), and state that He keeps mercy for thousands (Exodus 34:7; Deuteronomy 7:9).