

# JR KERR COMMENTARY

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Moody Commentary  
March

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The Love of God...

Recently over dinner my oldest daughter announced to us all that she wanted to be a missionary. It is a strange thing to hear your daughter tell you she wants to serve God in this way...there is an odd sense of joy and fear that almost immediately comes over you. Naturally, my wife and myself asked her why she felt this way and where she had come up with this idea. She responded to our query by saying that there were two reasons why she wanted to be a missionary...one is because she wants to travel the world (mind you she is 7 at this point) and two she wants to show people the love of God.

To show people the love of God...what a great reason to do just about anything. So we pressed her a bit. We wanted to know what exactly would it mean to show someone the love of God. She went onto describe how she feels the love of God when someone is kind to her at school and also when people share with her. Then she turned the tables on me...she asked me how do I know the love of God.

Do not get me wrong I had some answers in my head, but on the whole each one of them was a Sunday school answer as it were...for example I thought to myself I know the love God through the beauty of creation (what many of us would refer to as General Revelation or Common Grace) or I thought I know the love of God because of Jesus death on the cross. All of these are completely legitimate reasons to claim the love of God as real and effective for me.

The only problem is that as I thought more about it...I was struck by two things...I am not sure that I have been touched by the love of God personally in a while and I was certain that I had not touched someone with the love of God in quite some time. How do we pass on the love of God? What is the means by which we help people to understand the robust and overwhelming nature of God's love for humanity. Recently, our church has been preaching through the book of 1

John...so I have been studying the nature of the word “world” in his writings. When John speaks of God loving the world in John 3:16 he is referring to the people of the world...meaning all of us. No matter your theology, meaning whether you believe in the elect or not, we are required to love the people of this world.

So...how do you know the love of God? How do you show the love of God to others that share in this life with you...whether they realize that is what you are doing or not? May I press us to consider today how we might be people who think like a kid just for a bit and revisit our purpose on this earth...that we might show people the love of God. There was a time in my life when this seemed so central to me...before I learned to worry about position, cash, stuff, or stature. There was a time when I was a little kid just wondering how I might show people the love of God...imagine a world where the majority of the church endeavored to hold onto this kind of simple living and honest faith. I think people might be quick to answer whether or not they know the love of God...even if they do not understand at least they could say...oh yeah I have experienced the love of God...it was through my sister, my neighbor, my coworker, or my friend...and along the way maybe we get to travel the world as well.