

My Essay:

**God Is Love
For A Reason!**

By. Anthony Coleman

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PART I

Unfortunately, there are many people who are misunderstanding and misrepresenting who God is! Instead of building their faith on the right foundation, they have built (*or will build*) their faith on wrong foundations. These wrong foundations include legalism, religion, education, fear, history, upbringing, a spiritual experience, or even the Bible. I guarantee that majority of people who reject God or lose faith in God are those who built (*or try to build*) their faith on one of those wrong foundations.

If that's the case, what is the right foundation?

The right foundation is **LOVE!**

Why is love the right foundation? **Because love is the most important aspect of our existence!** That's a fact we must absolutely be convinced of and realize before we even pick up a Bible or learn about God.

But what is love? And what makes love most important?

Love is the embodiment of goodness and all good values (*such as respect, honesty, forgiveness, justice, etc.*) stem from love.

But how does good values stem from love? Let's look at the good values of *respect, honesty, forgiveness* and *justice*:

If you love someone, you would...

- *Respect* that person.
- Be *honest* to that person.
- *Forgive* that person.
- Seek *justice* for that person if that person has been wronged.

Since love is the embodiment of goodness and all good values stem from love, there could be only one purpose for love: **To create an existence of constant peace & unity!**

PART II

How do I know? Well, let's look at the good values of justice and forgiveness. In order to apply justice and forgiveness, something wrong must happen first. If something wrong happens, then peace & unity cannot continue to exist, but if peace & unity is the goal of love, then there must be a way to get back to peace & unity.

That is when justice and forgiveness are relevant! Justice means to address and rectify something that someone did wrong, and forgiveness means to not hate or seek revenge against someone who did something wrong. Both justice and forgiveness proves that wrongness must be dealt with in order for peace & unity to progress.

This is the foundation we need to establish before we are able to have the right understanding of who God is. With this foundation, we will be able to truly understand the most important Bible verse in the Bible, which is:

"God is love."

- 1 John 4:8

If that verse is true, then that means God is the embodiment of goodness, He is the source of all good values, and His ultimate goal is to create an existence of constant (*or eternal*) peace & unity!

All you have to do is make the connection! Do you honestly think that it's a coincidence that the most important aspect of life is what God claims to be? Plus, God actually wants us to acknowledge love being most important. There are verses in the Bible to prove it!

Don't believe me? Read them for yourself:

"Out of faith, hope, and love, love is most important!

Love is more important than anything else.

It is what ties everything completely together."

- 1 Corinthians 13:13, Colossians 3:14

Coincidence? I think not!

PART III

In order to have the right understanding of God, we must have the right understanding of love first! For example, let's read a few verses from the "Love Chapter" of the Bible:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Now, if God is truly love, then those verses should give us a better understanding of who God is. Let's look at those verses again, but this time, let's replace the words "love" with "God".

"God is patient, God is kind. He does not envy, He does not boast, He is not proud. He does not dishonor others, He is not self-seeking, He is not easily angered, He keeps no record of wrongs. He does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. God never fails."

Even though this description of God is so true and beautiful, I want to focus on verse 6 of this chapter, which is:

"Love (God) does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." - 1 Corinthians 13:6

(Side note: God rejoices with the truth, and John 14:6 says "Jesus is the truth", and John 16:13 says, "The Spirit is truth". Coincidence? I think not!)

Do you remember what I said about justice and forgiveness? Well, it actually makes perfect sense why God is love because even though it's within love's nature to correct evil/wrongness, love in itself cannot enforce justice and forgiveness in order to correct evil/wrongness. Why? Because love isn't an entity. It isn't self-aware.

That means if someone was to do something evil/wrong, love couldn't enforce justice on its own. Only someone who embraced love/goodness could enforce justice. But what if there isn't anyone around to enforce justice? Does that mean it's okay for wrongdoing and evil to exist? How could there be true peace if wrongness and evil can coexist with love?

That's why God being the embodiment of love makes perfect sense! Wrongness and evil not only deserve justice, but all wrongness and evil throughout all time WILL receive justice! Because God is love, He MUST address and rectify all the wrongness/evil in the world because like **1 Corinthians 13:6 says, "Love (God) does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth."** God is the only Being who has the authority and power to enact justice for all people throughout all time.

(Side note: Truth is the absolute *or objective* standard of what's right. Truth & love are inseparable.)

PART IV

Just think about it! If God is love and He is perfect, then that means He is perfect love! Evil and wrongness cannot coexist with love forever because love is meant to be perfect (or without corruption).

That's why there are verses such as:

- **"Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good."** - Romans 12:9
- **"The Lord is disgusted with all who do wrong, but He loves everyone who does right."** - Proverbs 15:9

(Side note: To take it a step further, read what Jesus (God) said about what expressing true love/goodness looks like: "If you love only someone who loves you, will God praise you for that? Even sinners love people who love them. If you are kind only to someone who is kind to you, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners are kind to people who are kind to them. If you lend money only to someone you think will pay you back, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners lend to sinners because they think they will get it all back. But love your enemies and be good to them. Lend without expecting to be paid back. Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in Heaven. He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel." - Luke 6:32-35)

God isn't going to tolerate evil/wrongness forever! Just look at what this verse says:

"God's Kingdom of Love is about righteousness, peace, and joy." - Romans 14:17

Remember when I said the whole purpose of love is to create an existence of constant peace & unity? Is it a coincidence that Heaven is solely about righteousness, peace, and joy? I think not!

(Side note: I really don't like when people use parts in the Bible to ruin God's character of love. For example, there are people who use the verse Psalm 5:5, that says "God hates all evildoers", to shame people for their sinful behavior. However, they do not make the distinction between God hating the sinful behavior and the sinners themselves. We cannot say that God hates sinners because that would contradict who God is! God loves sinners! For proof, read this verse: "For God showed His love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8. If we were all sinners and God hates sinners, why would He die for us? Because God doesn't hate us, but hate that we are corrupted by evil! Since we are created in His image (Genesis 5:1-2), He knows we weren't created to be involved with evil. We are created to embrace love/goodness! Plus, if you say God hates sinners, how would someone feel if they are struggling with a certain sin? Shame on those who influence sinners to lose hope in God's love for them!)

PART V

Let's look at 1 John 4:8 again, but this time, let's focus on this part:

"Whoever does not love does not know God." - 1 John 4:8

This is proof that our understanding of love is crucial towards knowing who God is! Why? Because our whole reason for knowing God is to be in a relationship with Him!

(Side note: Relationships are formed by love, and we love others because we honor the goodness within them.)

Just look at what God said:

"The Lord said, 'If you love Me and truly know who I am, I will rescue you and keep you safe.'" - Psalm 91:14

Many of us might think we know God, but do we *truly* know Him? If we don't truly know Him, how can we possibly love Him?

Wait! How would we even know if we truly love God in the first place?

"Jesus (God) said, 'I command you to love each other. So, if you love Me, you will do as I command.'" - John 14:15,15:17

When we choose to embrace *perfect* love, we show that we know and love God. Here are more verses of how important love is to God!:

- **"Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like the first. And it is, 'Love others as much as you love yourself.'" - Matthew 22:37-39**
- **"The commandment that God has given us is: 'Love God and love each other!'" - 1 John 4:21**
- **"You will do all right, if you obey the most important law in the Scriptures. It is the law that commands us to love others as much as we love ourselves." - James 2:8**
- **"All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself." - Galatians 5:14**
- **"Let love be your only debt! If you love others, you have done all that the Law demands." - Romans 13:8**
- **"What if I could speak all languages of humans and of angels? If I did not love others, I would be nothing more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. What if I could prophesy and understand all secrets and all knowledge? And what if I had faith that moved mountains? I would be nothing, unless I loved others. What if I gave away all that I owned and let myself be burned alive? I would gain nothing, unless I loved others." - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

- **"If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and He will stay one with us." - 1 John 4:16**
- **"When we love others, we know that we belong to the truth, and we feel at ease in the presence of God." - 1 John 3:19**
- **"Most important of all, you must sincerely love each other, because love wipes away many sins." - 1 Peter 4:8**
- **"Our love for each other proves that we have gone from death to life. But if you don't love each other, you are still under the power of death." - 1 John 3:14**

PART VI

Also, did you know that when we truly love others, we don't have to worry about God's judgment or Hell? Read verses below!:

"If we truly love others and live as Christ did in this world, we won't be worried about the Day of Judgment. A real love for others will chase those worries away. If we are afraid of being punished, then that shows we haven't learned to love." - 1 John 4:17-18

Since love is most important and God is love, God should mean more to us than life itself! (*Psalms* 63:3) That's why Jesus said:

"Jesus (God) said, You cannot be My disciple, unless you love Me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot come with Me unless you love Me more than you love your own life." - Luke 14:26

Did Jesus say that because He is a dictator and wants us to blindly follow Him? Absolutely not! He said that because He wants us to establish His perfect love/goodness as the foundation for our lives! Keep in mind that love isn't just the foundation of our faith and hope in Jesus (*God*), but is also the foundation of every relationship we have in our lives! So, it make sense to cherish love (*God*) above all else!:

- **"The Lord wants you to respect and follow Him, to love and serve Him with all your heart and soul." - Deuteronomy 10:12**
- **"If we truly love God, our sins will be forgiven; if we show Him respect, we will keep away from sin." - Proverbs 16:6**

Our faith in God should NOT be a religion. It should be a relationship! When we are in a religion with God, we will serve Him out of fear because we would think of Him as a dictator. However,

when we are in a relationship with God, we will serve Him out of love because we think of Him as our loving Father!

(Side note: As the saying goes, "We don't do good to get saved. We do good because we are saved!")

PART VII

Oh, and we must be careful! We must know/love God for who He truly is and NOT the image of Him that we created. That is why it could be really dangerous to let family, friends, churches, pastors, denominations, or parts of the Bible you don't understand to influence you to lose sight of the most important aspect in existence and what God embodies completely, which is LOVE!

If our faith in God is a relationship, then we are to pursue God on our own. No one should be able to "give" us faith in God. God said if you seek Him with all your heart, you will find Him (*Jeremiah 29:13*), but if you claim to have faith in God without going through the process of seeking Him for yourself, then you might have a false image of God.

Again, this is why we must acknowledge that love is the foundation of our faith! I cannot say that enough! We need to understand the significance of love because if we don't, we won't be able to truly know God!

But how do we know when we truly understand love?

When we are able to acknowledge and cherish the perfection of love! Since love is the embodiment of goodness, we must know it isn't meant to coexist with evil & injustice. However, God is love, so that means love will (*must*) eventually be forever separated from evil & injustice. Eternal peace & unity will (*must*) happen!

(Side Note: There are those who will reject the idea of love being perfect, but to reject the perfection of love is to accept evil & injustice existing. How do you become convinced that love is meant to be perfect? By asking and answering this question, "Who deserves to experience evil & injustice?")

PART VIII

Hold on! If love is most important, why doesn't everyone choose love? Because regardless of how important love is, it's still a choice. Love cannot exist without having the choice of rejecting it.

That's why God didn't create human beings to automatically choose Him. Could He if He wanted to? Perhaps, but there's a problem. In our perspective, we would probably feel like it's our own choice, but in God's perspective, He would know it wouldn't be genuine. That's why God wouldn't do that. Remember, honesty is a good value of love.

I don't know if you realized this yet, but our whole, entire existence is solely about us choosing God's perfect love/goodness! Since God didn't create us to automatically choose Him, we are all faced with the biggest decision of our lives:

1. To humble ourselves and use our free will to follow God's direction.

OR

2. To reject God and use our free will to follow whatever direction we want.

(Side note: The reason why it's dangerous to reject God and do whatever you want is because you must be okay with everyone having that freedom. Do you know why evil & injustice exist? Because people use their free will to reject God and do whatever they want. Again, love might be perfect, but love is still a choice.)

For God to allow us to reject Him is proof that He created us to be truly free. He didn't force us to choose Him, since He knows love cannot be forced. God created us to freely choose Him in order to be in a loving relationship with Him for eternity in perfect peace & unity. How do I know? Because that's the goal of love, and God is love!

PART IX

So, do you know why we need faith in order to be with God? Because in order to be with God, we must be perfect! Now, if I may ask, would you consider yourself to be perfect? Have you always been good, loving, and done what's right in your life? If not, then that means you aren't perfect. Don't feel lonely though. No human being is perfect!

Every unjust thought we've had, word we've said, and action we've done are violations of love (or *sins against God*). In that case, how could we ever hope to be with God? That is why Jesus is so significant! Jesus is God's way of making us perfect (*Hebrews 10:14*) in order to be with Him! That's why having faith in Him is so crucial. When we have faith in Jesus, we are basically saying to God:

"I know I violated perfect love in my life, and I'm really sorry. Please forgive me! I know I'm guilty and have contributed to the injustice in the world, but please don't allow all my wrongdoings to define me. Right now, I want to experience and share your perfect love. Please have mercy on me!"

Oh, and please keep this in mind: There will be a time when evil & injustice will (*must*) cease to exist and love will exist exclusively forever! If you reject faith in God, you will reject your only opportunity to be united in perfect love. If that's the case, when evil & injustice are eternally separated from perfect love (*God*), you will be eternally separated from perfect love (*God*) as well because as we already established, we must be perfect in order to be with God! (*Also, don't think for a second that God wants you to be separated from Him! He actually wants you to be with Him,*

but as we said before, He wants you to freely choose Him!) So, when it comes to the choice of having faith in God or rejecting faith in God, all I can say is, **"PLEASE choose wisely!"**

(Side note: Wisdom is a good value of love!)

PART X

Let's conclude this essay with a very important question:

If God despises sin and God created us knowing we would sin against Him, why would He create us in the first place? What was His reason?

If you read this essay up to this point, then you should already know the answer to those questions! If you don't, I will tell you. The answer is LOVE!

God created us to love us! We are created in God's love! God knew ALL of the sinful acts we would do in our lives, but STILL created us in His love! Do you know what that means?! There is nothing we can do that would EVER stop God from loving us because He already knew ALL the sinful acts we would do and created us anyway!

How great is God's love for us! That's why *Romans 8:35,38-39* says:

"I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not trouble, suffering, and hard times, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers in Heaven or in Hell. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

Yes, it's true God knew we would sin against Him, but He also knew that He would provide an opportunity for us to be saved and knew we would take that opportunity! Just read *2 Timothy 1:9*:

"God saved us and chose us to be His holy people. We did nothing to deserve this, but God planned it because He is so kind. Even before time began God planned for Christ Jesus to show kindness to us."

And remember when Jesus said in *Mark 3:28*, **"I promise you that any of the sinful things you say or do can be forgiven, no matter how terrible those things are."**

The reason why God will forgive us no matter what (*if we turn to Him*) is because He already knew the sins we would commit when He created us! He's already prepared to forgive us! Just read *1 John 2:1-2*:

“My children, I am writing this so that you won’t sin. But if you do sin, Jesus Christ always does the right thing, and he will speak to the Father for us. Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and the sins of all the people in the world.”

I said it before and I’ll say it one more time: Make sure you have established love as the foundation of your faith in God!

- **“We love because God loved us first.” - 1 John 4:19**
- **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, so that anyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16**