

Divine Love Or Divine Wrath – Which Is It?



By Bill Smith



“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, **abounding in love** and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. **Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished**; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

(Exodus 34:6-7)

According to Tertullian
(early third century),
the Marcionites said that,

“a better god has been discovered, one who is neither offended nor angry nor inflicts punishment, who has no fire warming up in hell, and no outer darkness wherein there is shuddering and gnashing of teeth: he is merely kind.”

“A God without wrath
brought man without sin
into a kingdom without
judgment through the
ministrations of a Christ
without a cross.”

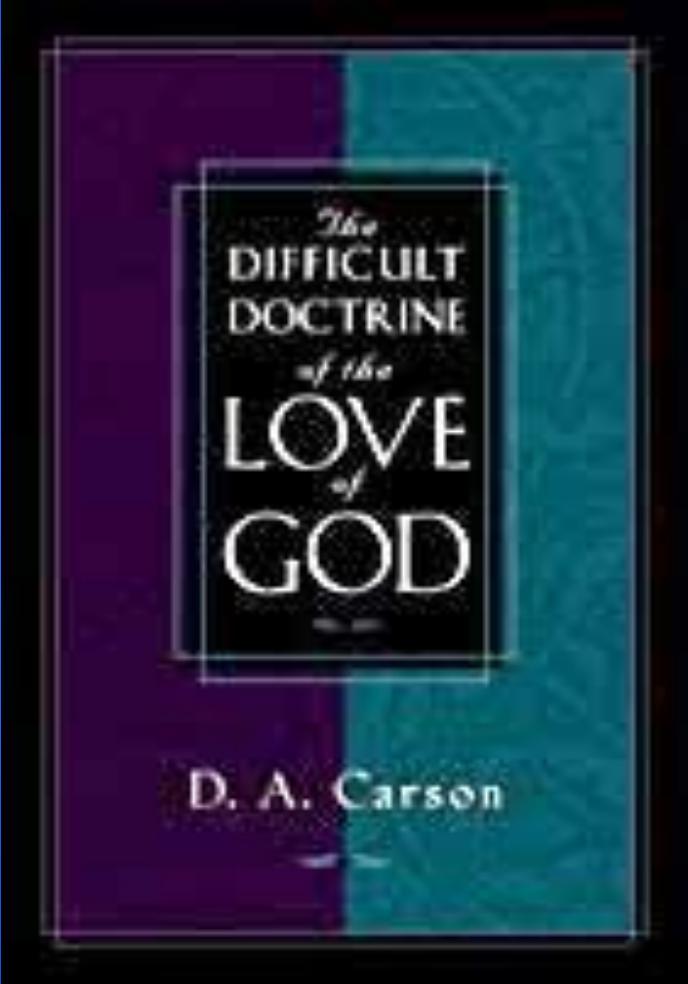
H. Richard Niebuhr (1934)

Thomas H. McCall

An abstract painting featuring a central figure on a cross. The figure is rendered in shades of green and blue, set against a background of vibrant yellow and orange. The style is expressive and textured, with visible brushstrokes.

FORSAKEN

The Trinity and the Cross, and Why It Matters

A book cover with a vertical split background of purple on the left and teal on the right. The title is centered in a white rectangular frame.

The
**DIFFICULT
DOCTRINE**
of the
**LOVE
of
GOD**

D. A. Carson

“What were we made for? To know God.
What aim should we have in life? To know God.
What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? To know God.
What is the best thing in life? To know God.

What in humans gives God most pleasure?
Knowledge of Himself.”

J.I. Packer



“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because **you loved me before the creation of the world**” (John 17:24)



“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gn. 1:27)

“...grass grow for cattle. . . Wine gladdens the heart of man. . . The trees of the Lord are well watered. . . The moon marks off seasons. . .” (Ps. 104)

“Look at the birds of the air. . . See how the lilies of the field grow. . .” (Mt. 6:25-34)



“Who among the gods is like you, O LORD ?
Who is like you— majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory, working wonders? . . . In
your **unfailing love** you will lead the people
you have redeemed. “ (Exodus 15:11, 13)



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(Exodus 34:6-7)



“The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the **LORD loved you** and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (Dt. 7:7-8)



“In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your **unfailing love** rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.”
(Psalm 33:21-22)



“When Israel was a child **I loved him**, and
out of Egypt I have called my son.”

(Hosea 11:1)



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)



“But God demonstrates **his own love for us** in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)



“Who shall separate us from the **love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 8:34-39)



“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me** and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)



“This is how we know **what love is**:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And
we ought to lay down our lives for our
brothers.” (1 John 3:16)



“Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. This is how God showed **his love among us**: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us** and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 Jn. 4:8-10)

So . . .

- ❖ God's Love Is Eternal (1 Jn. 4:8, 16)

**Susana Wesley,
letter to a friend
(1738)**

“He is the great God, “the God of the spirits of all flesh,” “the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity,” and created not angels and men because he wanted them, for he is being itself, and as such must necessarily be infinitely happy in the glorious perfections of his nature from everlasting to everlasting; and as he did not create, so neither did he redeem because he needed us; but he loved us because he loved us, he would have mercy because he would have mercy, he would show compassion because he would show compassion.”

So . . .

- ❖ God's Love Is Eternal (1 Jn. 4:8, 16)
- ❖ God's Love Is Holy Love (1 Jn. 4:9-10)
- ❖ God's Love Is Other-Centered (Jn.3:16)

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