

WHY?

Did you ever ask yourself, “Why?” Why did God go to all the trouble?

First, He created the heavenly realm and all the angels, knowing in advance that Satan and apparently one-third of the angels would rebel against Him. Then he created the universe, planet earth and mankind, knowing that we would all rebel against Him and reject Him, and He Himself would have to come down as a lowly human and die a shameful and painful death to give us a pathway to an eternity with Him.

Why all the trouble? I can only think of one answer: His great [*agape*] unconditional love.

We are all familiar with what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:16,

“For God so loved the world [EVERYBODY], that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes [Gr: *pisteuo* = trusts] in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

The Greek word for “love” in this verse and in all the verses we will look at today is the Greek word *Agape*, which means unconditional, God-like love.

So since He loves everybody, why did He give angels and humans the ability to choose to reject Him in the first place?

I once was given a mechanical dog. It was fun to play with for about 10 minutes.

Then it got boring. Why? Because a real dog, unlike a robot, can choose to love you, and he can demonstrate that love. A robot cannot love at all. It is a machine.

If God had created angels and humans without the ability to choose to love Him or reject Him [what theologians call “free will”], His efforts would have been pointless. We would all [angels and humans] be essentially living robots. God can’t love a robot any more than we can.

Twice the apostle John wrote in 1 John Chapter 4, **God is love.**

The angels who rejected God and followed Satan, according to scripture, are forever doomed to an eternity separated from God.

But God provided a path for humans to spend eternity with Him through the great sacrifice of Jesus, God Himself. John 1:12 tells us that **As many as received Him [Jesus], to them He have the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe [*pisteuo* = trust] in His name.** Notice the wording: THE RIGHT TO BECOME the children of God.

Consider these verses:

John 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

Shortly before, Jesus told His disciples:

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. John 14:15

Six verses later, He said, **“The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.”** John 14:21

Then He said , **“If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him.”** John 14:23

Notice that He is talking about LOVE, not obedience. Obedience, as He points out, is the RESULT of our unconditional, God-like agape love for God, which can only happen when we are guided by the Holy Spirit.

When asked what the greatest commandment of the law was, Jesus answered, **'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'**

We DEMONSTRATE that love through obedience while being led by the Holy Spirit, and through that mutual love build the RELATIONSHIP God wants with us.

In his first epistle, the apostle John wrote:

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. 1 John 2:3-4

I think all of these verses contain the key to the answer to our question of why God went to all the trouble. God's outstanding characteristic is LOVE.

So since He loves everybody, why did he give angels and humans the ability to choose to reject Him in the first place?

I can only think of one reason He would go through all that humiliation, pain and suffering: The greater the love, the more it wants to be reciprocated.

My conclusion: God wants to spend eternity with those who truly LOVE HIM. Why would He want to spend eternity with those who do NOT truly love Him? He wouldn't.

As Jesus points out to His disciples in John 14:21, 14:23 and John 15:10, when we truly love God, it is the basis of a relationship with Him. One that will last through eternity. Let's take another look at these verses:

John 14:21:

“The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.”

John 14:23:

“If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him.”

John 15:10:

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

Notice the outcome of loving God and demonstrating that love through keeping His commandments: A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BASED ON LOVE. Reciprocated love resulting in a relationship.

Now we can make sense of what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

They checked all the boxes, and did many works, but not out of genuine love for God, and therefore had no relationship with Him. And that’s what He wants, and why He went to all the trouble: He wants a relationship based on *agape* love. And according to this passage in Matthew 7, those who do not have that love-based relationship do not

spend eternity with God. Here are the words we never want to hear, “**I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME...**”

DO YOU LOVE GOD?

DO YOU LOVE HIM ENOUGH TO SUBMIT YOUR WILL TO HIS WILL AND
BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?