



GOD LOVES EVERYONE!

God loves YOU! Red, black, brown and white—
young and old—male and female—rich and
poor—politically liberal, moderate and
conservative—God loves you!

God loves all who are trapped by religion—including Muslims and Buddhists and un-Christ-like people who identify as Christians. He loves Democrats and Republicans. He even loves racist, *old white males* like me (more on that later—stay tuned).

The first six words of John 3:16 tell you and me, “*For God so loved the WORLD...*” Wait! Be honest! Are you happy that **God loves everyone?**

Our loving heavenly Father God loves all his children. God loves his children despite what they do and how they behave. He doesn’t love the hatred and the bigotry and the violence and the warfare advocated and practiced by so many, but **God loves everyone** because his love does not depend on the behavior of his children. Why does he love you and me?

Because God *is* love, not

by Greg Albrecht

because our actions cause him to *have* love for us.

God doesn’t love the addictions that ensnare many addicts—he doesn’t love the deceptions that ensnare people in superstition, shame and guilt—he doesn’t love the promiscuity and anything-goes permissiveness that envelops the world in the name of what is falsely defined as love.

But **God loves everyone**, and that includes addicts and slaves of all kinds.

God doesn’t love us *because* of what we do, he loves us *in spite*



of what we do. God loves us despite all the bad things we do.

God loves us despite our belief that he owes us a reward for all the good things we do.

God loves us because of who he is, not because of who and what we are or how hard we try to please him. You don't have to love God first before he will love you.

Six words. *"For God so loved the world..."*


How can that be?

LOVE WINS! AN ANGRY GOD IS A HOAX

None of us fully comprehends how, nor do many even believe God actually does love everyone because they do not accept and believe the predominant definition of God—***God is love.***

God *is* love is an entirely different dynamic than saying he *has* love.

Sistine Chapel Ceiling Creation of the Sun and Moon by Michelangelo Buonarroti



You will quickly discover that people get angry with anyone who tries to take away their angry God!

Many people who are ritual-observing, ceremony-compliant, dues-paying members of religious institutions believe that God is angry with virtually everyone except their holy huddle. For that matter, they believe they and their own religious tribe barely escape the wrath of God because of their submissiveness to religious dogma and authority. While they believe they only just escape the wrath of God they

believe “others” who do not measure up to their religious standards are “un-saved”—“un-believers”—“pagans” and “heretics” and they absolutely believe such unfortunates are eternally and forever “lost” and doomed to eternal conscious torment in the hell of their angry God.

Try convincing and persuading someone who believes in an angry God filled with wrath that **God loves everyone**. *You will quickly discover that people get angry with anyone who tries to take away their angry God.* Many believe in an angry God because they need an angry God. Ironically, they need a God of hate to help them feel better! Christ-less religion and polarizing political perspectives (sometimes coexisting in one very toxic mix!) are quick to accommodate such a desire.

As a Christ-follower, I have grown weary of the relentless attacks launched by people who say they are Christians. The goal of these unremitting attacks is to inform and warn really, really bad “other” people they need to know that God is really upset with them. These “other” people are perceived as obnoxious “really bad sinners.” Those who describe themselves as moral, upright and faithful believe when God finally loses his patience, his wrath will be unleashed on homosexuals and people who have had abortions.

Those who succumb to the delights of being judge, jury and executioner (in the name of the angry God of their religion) believe they are helping to purify the world of “bad” people. Prioritizing homosexuality and abortions as being the worst of the worst of all sins is blatantly unlike God, but that doesn’t stop Christ-less religion from focusing its sights on gays (both men and women) and everyone who has ever had an abortion (which of course would only be women so as almost invariably is the case, Christ-less religion once again holds women to a higher degree of culpability than men, but that’s not breaking news).

While such condemnation is pathetic in that it comes from a segment of people who call themselves Christian, of recent date, another strident voice of condemnation has come from another quarter, and this group is about as far from being Christ-followers as North Korea is from Kansas. The focus of this decidedly non-Christian and, for that matter, non-religious group is *old, white males*.

WHAT? GOD LOVES EVEN ME?

During a discussion with a new acquaintance in which I challenged some of her views, it became obvious to me that she considered the fact that I am an *old white male* as de facto proof I am a hateful and bigoted racist.

When I pointed out that her judgment of me was itself

racist (I'm white), sexist (I'm male) and based on age discrimination (65 is fading fast in my rearview mirror), she was not amused.

I decided not to add fuel to her tirade by telling her that not only am I an *old white male* but I attended second and third grades at Robert E. Lee Elementary in Rosenberg, Texas. I realized the revelation that *I once lived in Texas and attended a school named for a Confederate Civil War general* would have confirmed to her that I am without a doubt a hateful and bigoted racist.

She was already infuriated with me because I am an *old*

believe God can love me because I am an *old white male* who isn't a member of their political party. If that is the criteria for God's love, I am out of luck because I refuse to be a member of any political party. As Groucho Marx used to say, "I refuse to be a member of any club who would accept me as a member."

Not only do some definitely-not-religious people believe there is nothing about me God or anyone else could love (because I don't share their ideological perspectives), some religious people grudgingly admit that God, on one of his "good" days, might hold his nose and admit

God loves us and invites us to accept and believe in Jesus, that we might be delivered from religious snobbery and pride, hatred, bigotry, murder, war, lust, greed and self-centeredness of every size, shape and description. God loves everyone and invites all of us to be delivered from racism, including racists who don't hesitate to condemn and denounce all who fail to agree with them as racists.

God loves us and invites us to accept and believe in Jesus that he might lift us out of the evil, the corruption and the perversion, the name-calling and the condemnation that envelops us as surely as the air that we breathe. God calls us to freedom in Christ, a freedom that delivers us from the oppression of abusing and mistreating others who differ from us.

Sadly, the human condition seems to include belittling and demeaning others, simply because they are different. It seems natural and increasingly common today for people to despise those who are not their same age, color or gender.

But God's love for you and me and the entire world is absolute, unconditional and unwavering. Jesus reveals the love of God for us. As we walk with and follow Jesus, he is our goal and our focus. It is in Jesus, by the grace of God that we find, discover and experience the gospel—and one of the great summaries of the gospel is that **everyone is loved**—"for God so loved the world..."□

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“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened by the yoke of slavery.” –Galatians 5:1

white male, so I did not bother to tell her I stand, with my hand on my heart, when the Star-Spangled Banner is played. I did not bother to tell her that I am one of those hateful, bigoted racists who believe in the absolute historical proof of the Holocaust and that I support the right of the nation of Israel to exist.

I did not wish to intensify the differences we had, so I did ask her why so many self-described enlightened and progressive North Americans label everyone who doesn't agree with them on every topic as racists. Her remarks gave me the clear impression that she dismissed me and "my kind" as not being "woke" (and it's true, I do take more naps now than ever).

It appears some people don't

to liking me. But even then, they urge me to join and attend a church (in fact, they urge me to become a member of *their* church) so God will love me more ... even on his "bad" days.

I refuse to capitulate to such contrived, un-Christlike religious demands. Paul extends the ramifications of the gospel of Jesus Christ, "*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened by the yoke of slavery*" (Galatians 5:1).

God loves everyone—how can and why does God do that? I don't know and neither do you—but I do know that he doesn't need my permission or anyone's permission to love everyone. That's one of the reasons he is God and you and I are not!