

YOU ARE NOT INVISIBLE TO GOD

Series: God Is Love
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Creation, Bold, Freedom, Trust
Genesis 1

So John a friend and follower of Jesus introduces us to a very unique revelation. In one of his letters, he says “God is Love” and never before had anyone used those words to describe God. Now, there are countless times where people talked about God’s love and God’s actions of love. But all those times it was an action of God directed towards the object of love, us. Which is entirely true and beautiful. However, what John says here is bigger than that. He is saying if you could sum up everything God is, and that is if you could, you find love.

God the one who creates, God our father, God the Holy One, God our salvation. Everything God is, if you could sum that up, you end up with Love. That God is love. And the reason he creates is that He is love, the reason he heals is love, the reason he provides is love, the reason he loves, is love.

Now, John says he gets this conviction by experiencing life with God on earth, Jesus Christ. From seeing him touch those who lived in the fringes of society, from how treated them his close friends, from how he dealt with Religious leaders who were against him and sought to kill him to how he dealt with the pagan Romans. He was so convinced, that love had walked this earth.

So convinced that the only way to live out our lives as people who know God is evidenced by whether we are loving or not. There is also one thing he is so convinced of, this is not something new. That God did not just the other day go, “What if we love these people?”, “What if I take on human form and come close to them?”, “What if I invite them into love?”

That God did not just last week decide to love you or last year when you decided to follow him or last month when you decided to become part of this community. God did not decide 2 weeks ago to love you or when you stopped being a jerk God has loved you always and guess where it starts? At the beginning.

You see this is one of my passions has been to invite people to realize that God did not just decide to love humanity yesterday. God did not just decide to be among us yesterday, this has always been from the beginning even if we are just learning it now. God has loved you before the foundations of the Earth. Which quite honestly for me is an idea I cannot wrap my

head around because we 7 billion people right now on the earth not counting those that have gone and those that are coming.

Look at how John he starts his story of Jesus,

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

For someone who is so convinced of God's love and wants the whole world to know about God's love through Jesus, he is taking us to a very complicated place, the beginning. Because none of us was there in the beginning at least not in a conscious sense. And he is specifically referring to the story we have in Genesis, the first book in our Bibles and that is complicated as it is. In the beginning was the word through whom all things were made. Genesis paints that picture exactly of God speaking everything into being.

Walk with me and let us start from the beginning.

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Only love is bold enough to create beginnings. Love initiates. Do you know for a long time scientists and many people thought that the universe had always just existed? Then quite recently, 1927 and even more boldly in 1964 with the discovery of cosmic microwave background radiation, there is agreement that the vast universe which is ever expanding expanded from nothing in a trillionth trillion of a second. Took them quite a while to Catch up with the story of Genesis? That is there was a beginning and at that beginning was God. And out of nothing, he created everything.

This is a very intimate connection to something. God is not just uninvolved His Spirit is moving back and forth. It's thoughtful, it's intimate, it's intentional. Now I assure you there are many other stories of creation. Creation comes from a very uninvolved or uninvolved place. Even where gods were fighting or created accidentally or for some diabolical reason. But the picture we get here is one of intention and intimate involvement. Only love is bold enough to create.

Now people get stuck on the wrong conversation about the sequence of creation, the timing, and all that when we read the story of Genesis and miss out on what being said here. There is a whole worldview right there. That there was a beginning and now science is just catching up with that truth, and that the beginning was God.

Now, if you had all the money in the world and you lacked nothing and were in need of nothing, what would you spend the money on? My guess, something you probably love so much. You are most probably going to only engage in creating something you really love.

See, in the beginning is the story of God who has all power and is complete lacking nothing bringing creation into being. My guess is, if God is going to meticulously take time to create, it is because he loves what he is creating and finds so much pleasure in it.

And you see the story of Genesis goes on to tell that every point God created something he took time to look at it and find that it was satisfying. You see every step was good enough if he had stopped there. Every step after creation God would rest. And for me, it's not so much about the sequence but the picture that God took his time, and created perfection. It was good enough for him to call it a day after every step.

Because when we love we give it our best and we do not leave until its complete and it is good. Only love is bold enough to create, and he saw it and saw that it was good.

And when it comes to creating Human beings it is very very special. God says

Gen 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

***So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.***

What value would you put on the image and likeness of God? And right there is an act of love. You see all other stories of creation are about the things people called gods being at war or just creating for their own pleasure or like in one, in particular, its about God creating human beings to do nothing but serve the lazy gods.

But here is revelation of God creating human beings in his own image and likeness, basically, it is saying he is creating human beings with value just because they are alive. God creates man and immediately gives them dominion and immediately blesses them.

There is an interesting document that is foundational to a country in the Americas

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness....”

Basically what the author was saying is that there are things you cannot argue with because you see it in every human life, that each person has intrinsic value.

Now, unfortunately, that nation is deeply scarred by a history of slavery. But the thing is slavery is a human problem. Actually, slavery had always existed only that in the 17th century it took a racial turn and it became more profitable to enslave people of African descent. And these are things still happening, sex trade even at the coast of Kenya, actual selling of slaves in some Arab countries, the oppression of employees by greedy employers.

I heard of a conversation with a guy working for one of the companies turning very huge profits in Kenya. Someone asked them what it felt like to work for the company. And for him, the danger was people saw the profits but did not know the actual human cost. Because every year you meet your targets, the targets are pushed up, which means working extra hard with less and less time with family or for yourselves or for your soul.

Or our country's scar of tribalism. The reason we instinctively know that these things are wrong is that there is the self-evident truth that every human being is valuable. When we hear stories of oppression, we don't need to know the person's name or history we simply know it should not be so because there is intrinsic value in every human being. Why? Because God created us in his very own image and likeness.

And the world is still light years behind what God revealed. We are still not treating people with the dignity we know they have just for being created in God's image.

Only love is bold enough to create both men and women have so much value and the world is still struggling to catch up with the revelation in Genesis. Man and woman he created them. All the women in the church and in the world need to know how much God loves them and that you are so valued. We still have to have affirmative action in our law to make sure your voices are heard but God put so much value in you that the world still trying to catch up with. Why? Because only love is bold enough to create people with such value, unmeasurable value.

Genesis 1:28-30

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

And after creating man he gave put all of his creation under his care. Everything God has created he found beautiful and said it was good. This is complete trust. This new creation had not been given a test run.

There was no assurance that it would function, no assurance we would not bail, no assurance we would not disobey. But love is bold enough to trust completely. And because God is Love he put everything under the care of humanity. He trusted us.

You see, God trusts you. God trusts you enough to make better choices for your life. That is why we are not puppets. God trusts you enough that he is inviting you to work alongside him, some in church, some in the workplace and all of us in our communities. Only love is bold enough to trust completely. God trusts you to be a great dad, a great husband, a great sister. That is why he trusted people he loves with you and put you in their family.

And there is a picture here, the story of beginnings or Genesis if you like, is the story of a loving father creating the whole world and a beautiful garden and then living humanity enough to put them right in the middle of all he found beautiful. Right in the middle of it and tells them to eat, work and I will see you every evening so that we can laugh together.

So whether you choose to walk away from God or towards God, you have so much value and God trusts you with the things he has put in your hands. Only love is bold enough to create, only love is bold enough to value so highly, only love is bold enough to trust completely. Its like form the moment the timer is set and we have what we call the beginning, every action of God is motivated by Love. Check out God’s next action,

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,

Then here comes a big one. He gave man and woman freedom to choose. But, the revelation of God is that he created out of love, a love so reckless that he allowed the

freedom to choose even to choose to walk away from him. Because only love is bold enough to give freedom when its easier to control and manipulate and hold back.

Only love is bold enough to trust, completely. God has man and woman in the middle of the garden and He is aware of the tree. Its right there with them. And everyone keeps asking the wrong question. Why did God leave the tree there, why did he point it out because when you tell someone what not to do, that is exactly what they will do? Why did he not cover their eyes at least to the tree only?

But that is the wrong question because the real question is why did God trust us that much? Why did God dare give us that much freedom? Why were we allowed to choose? And the answer is because he loved us so. And only love is bold enough to create, bold enough to trust completely and bold enough to give freedom.

Now, we all know how the story goes. Adam and Eve make the wrong choice and eat of the fruit. So what does love do when it is broken, when it hurt? Does it remain, Is it still bold? Does it still trust and give freedom? That is where we will pick it up next week.

(Call the band)

You see, you are valuable. The law of the country does not determine that. The culture of your people does not determine that your place in the socio-economic strata does not determine that. You are valuable because you are made by God in his very image and likeness. You bear the divine mark of supreme quality. And if you never felt so, I invite you into community with us. Let's all lean into the invitation into a love this big.

You see, you are trusted completely. God has and will continue to provide everything you need for you to make the right choices and he has no doubt that you can. You may not trust yourself as a parent but God has no doubt that you can make a darn good one. He will be with you all the way.

And you know why this is important? Some of us sit in paralysis claiming that we are waiting to hear from God. So we do nothing about people who are hurting around us because God has not said to. We do nothing in our church communities because God has not said to. So we ask no out on a date because God has not said to. We love no one, we serve no one. We are paralyzed. God trusts you with the things he has put in your hands. He will be holding your hand all the way.

You have freedom because love is bold enough. So don't come to church out of fear. Don't read the Bible out of fear. Don't send that text to 10 people in 10 minutes out of fear or type amen if you are a believer out of fear. Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And in the freedom, God invites you into Love.

Why is this important, sometimes the church and people entrusted with church leadership instilled fear instead of inviting people into love. When people say things like “you better send in your entire salary as tithe or else..”

“You better call your hands because you would for the president...”

“Better vote for this candidate if you are a christian..”

Some even sound very good. Like better be praying every day if you are a believer

I want in the authority of Jesus to free you from all that. Everything God is inviting you into? Bring freedom. Jesus said,

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

All who are burdened by the weight of oppression as if you did not matter, all who are weary from feeling like you are not good enough, all who are weary from unforgiving religion that required of you but gave you no freedom, Jesus is saying Love is bold enough, God is bold enough...

Closing Prayer