

CREATION In The Beginning

The Story of Love is Eternal

- The beginning of our story is not the beginning of *the story*. When heaven and earth came into existence God was already there (Genesis 1:1).
- Love has a story and it's eternal. It's the big story that all others fit into.
- The story gets twisted when we assume wrong starting points.

Read *Jeremiah 31:3* and *1 Corinthians 13:8-13*

How is your worldview impacted by the truth that love is eternal?

How have you attempted to squeeze the story of love into your personal story? How did that work in your life? How has it impacted your view of love?

Attributes of God- The story of love is the story of God, who is love (1 John 4:8). To better understand the big story, we must seek a better understanding of God.

God is...

Eternal (Psalm 90:2), **Unchanging** (Malachi 3:6), **Self-Sufficient** (John 5:26), **Omnipotent** (Jeremiah 32:17), **Omniscient** (Isaiah 46:9-10), **Omnipresent** (Psalm 139:7-10), **Wise** (Romans 11:33), **Faithful** (Deut. 7:9), **Good** (Psalm 34:8), **Just** (Deut. 32:4), **Gracious** (Psalm 145:8), **Holy** (Rev. 4:8), **Glorious** (Rev. 19:1)

Rather than determining God's character through our experience we should allow the true character of God to give meaning to our experience. How do you do this? Is it a struggle? Is it liberating?

Other-Centered Love Before There Were Others

God is unity in plurality. The eternal unity of the Father, Son and Spirit allows other-centered love to exist in God. - *Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 Pt. 1:2*

- "you loved me before the foundation of the world" John 17:24
- Genesis 1:1 *Elohim*
- Genesis 1:26 *Us & Our*

Read *John 17:20-26; 14:15-17, 26; 16:7-15*

How do you understand the unity and relationship of the Father, Son and Spirit? How does this help you understand the truth that God is love? How does this help you understand your need for loving relationships?

What changes will you make in your life to better embrace the story of love?