

# NO STRINGS ATTACHED

## *Understanding Divine Disinterested Benevolence*

**Ephesians 5.1,2. The Message**—Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

**Genesis 2.15-17**—The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 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, for when you eat of it you will certainly die.”

**Matthew 5.44,45**—But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

**Luke 6.35**—But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

**John 3.16**—For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**1 John 5.10**—The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

**1 John 5.11**—And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

**1 Timothy 4.10**—For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

**John 5.19-23**—Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things

“God Is Love”—1 John 4:8

\*All texts quoted from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

**Luke 17.11-19**—While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; and they raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When He saw them, He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they were going, they were cleansed. Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine – where are they? Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.”

**John 17.3**—This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

**John 3.35**—The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.

**John 3.35, The Message**—The Father loves the Son extravagantly. He turned everything over to him so he could give it away - a lavish distribution of gifts.

**Romans 5.18**—It follows, then, that as the result of one misdeed was condemnation for all people, so the result of one righteous act is acquittal and life for all.

**Matthew 5.44,45**—But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.