

We see two things in this chapter which gives the soul immense delight. Verse 9 shows us *the way God makes His love known*. In verse 17 we see *how His love is made perfect*. In verse 9 God sent His only-begotten Son into the world, that we might have *life* through Him. That we might have life who were dead, that we might be partakers of a life that flows from the manifestation of God's love—a life separated altogether from nature and nature's affections and pleasures. It cannot be hinged in with selfishness. And what is my nature: is it not mere selfishness? If I look at my motives from day to day, what shall I find them? Are they not self? We have no idea how we are under the influence of self. Is it not true that the trifles of dress more occupy the thoughts of many than all God has done in sending down His Son from heaven to save sinners? It is a positive fact, and it is no use to try to hide it from ourselves. We cannot hide it from God.

On the other hand, the more I look at God's love, the more I see its perfectness. It is said, "for a good man some would even dare to die." But when there was not one single good thing in us, God commended His love towards us. It was purely grace shown to us in the cross. We were just sinners and nothing but sinners when Christ died to save us. And I can never understand what God's love really is, until I can say I am merely a sinner. If you do not know what God's love is, it is because you have not learnt that

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