

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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A Portrait of God's Love

Hosea 3:1-5

Love is a confusing word. You can love pizza and love your mom. Love is on the one hand one of the most powerful words in the whole of the English language, used to describe our most intense emotions, and yet strangely enough it used to describe the food we like and our favorite TV shows. So what does it mean when the Bible says God loves us? God chose through Hosea to give us a picture of his love. That picture began in chapter one of Hosea, and it now concludes in chapter three. What we find when we examine God's love should both excite and terrify us. We should both rejoice and tremble.

Embrace God's love.

I. God's love endures (v 1).

A. Hosea loved a wife who love another man.

B. God loved a people who loved worthless things.

1. Israel pursued other gods.
2. Israel loved food.

II. God's love sacrifices (v 2).

A. God's love sacrifices by loving the unlovely.

Gomer is being sold at the standard price of a slave. Her so called “lovers” clearly don’t think much of her anymore.

B. God’s love sacrifices by paying a great price.

Hosea seems to be struggling to pull together enough money to pay for his wife. God, of course, paid the highest price that has ever been paid for anything when he sent his Son to die for us.

III. God’s love purifies (v 3-4).

A. God’s purifying love hurts.

Israel was to be without ruler and any forms of worship for a period of time as she was invaded, as part of God’s loving correction.

B. God’s purifying love helps.

The end result for Israel was that she would return trembling to God. Israel would learn the hard way the importance of obedience.

IV. God’s love blesses (v 5).

A. God blesses those he has purified.

God specifies that “afterward,” and only afterward will his people return so they can be blessed.

B. God blesses those who fear him.