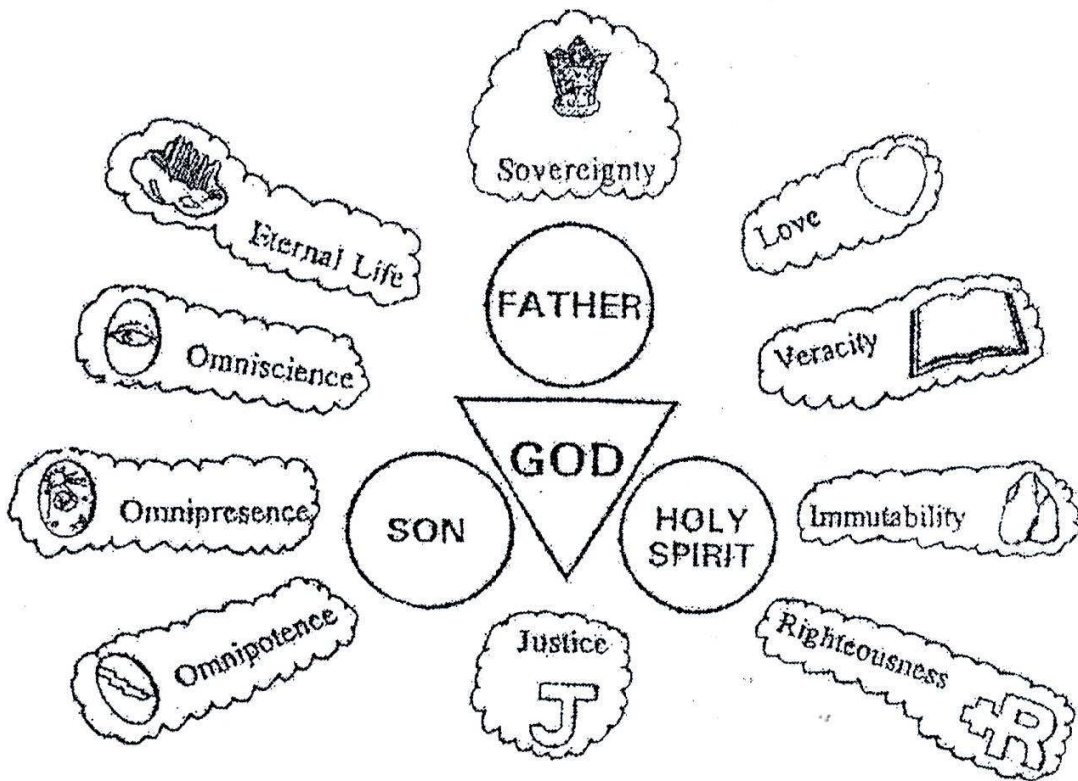
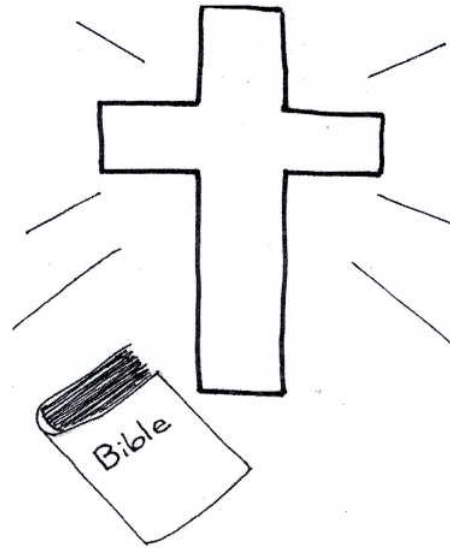


Secure In God's Love

Part 2



God has infinite love. We can't even imagine that much love! Each member of the Trinity loves the other members of the Trinity with a perfect, infinite love. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all have perfect righteousness or perfect goodness. They love that in each other. When Jesus Christ came to earth as the God-Man, He had perfect righteousness. He loved Himself. He had to love Himself before He could love us! He taught us how to love through His life and death on the cross. He gave His life so that we might live. His love is the greatest. We are secure in God's love!

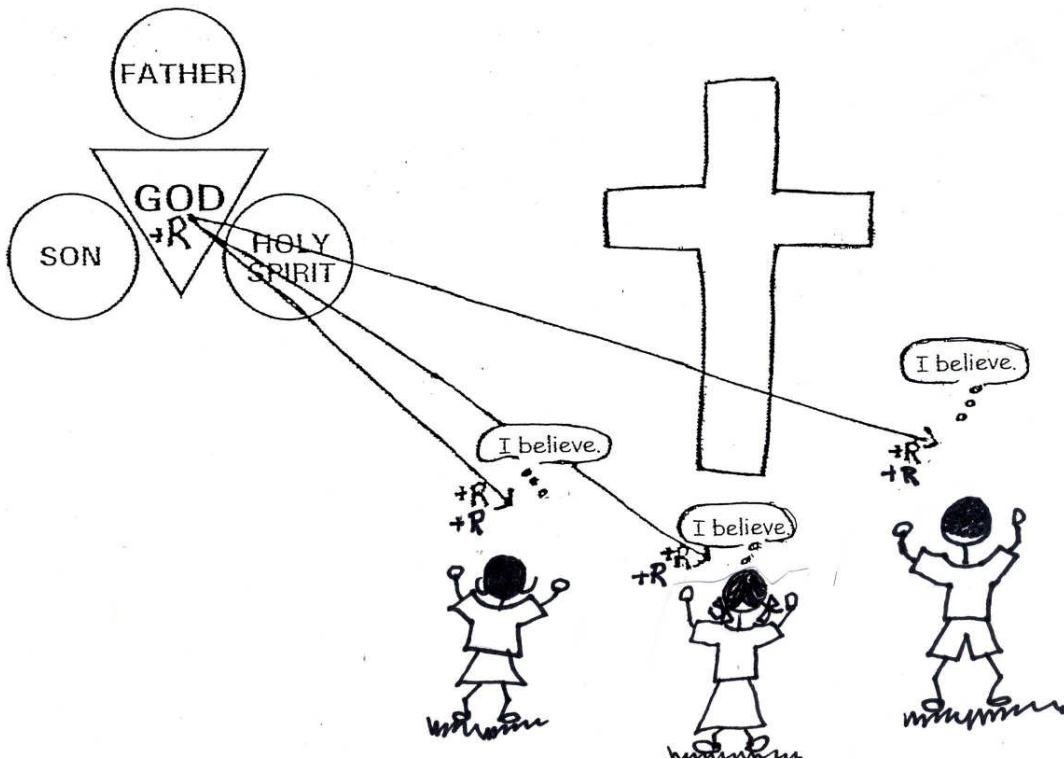


Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God loves Himself. There is nothing not to love about Himself. God is Top Ruler, He knows everything, He is completely fair, He is perfect goodness, He is all powerful, He is everywhere, He never changes, He always was and always will be, He is truth, and He is perfect love. That nature deserves love! God shares His love with us; He has impersonal love* for all mankind and personal love** for believers. God can love believers personally because at salvation He gave them His righteousness or His goodness. He gives us what we need so He can love us. How cool is that? We don't earn it, and we don't deserve it. It is a grace gift from God. God loves His righteousness in believers! We are secure in His love!

*Impersonal love: love that depends on the integrity of the subject rather than the object being loved.

**Personal love: love that depends on the attractiveness in the object.

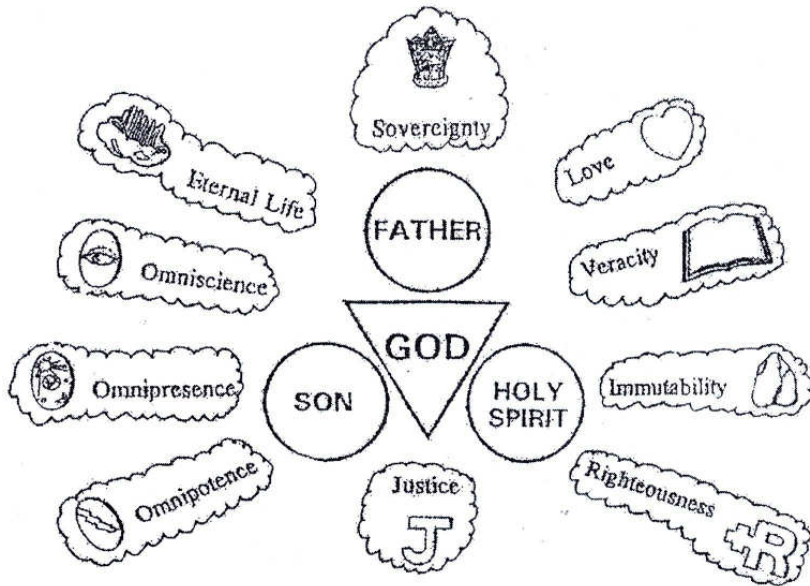


1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world [mankind], that He gave His only begotten [uniquely born] Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

God makes true love possible. It is called true love because it is based on Who God is. We have to know God before we can love Him and truly love ourselves. We have to truly love ourselves before we can love others. If we don't love ourselves, we won't accept ourselves for who we are; we won't recognize love in another person, and he or she won't recognize love in us. Bummer! We learn about God through the Bible. By studying Bible doctrine, we will learn who Jesus Christ is and the love He has for us. The Holy Spirit will also teach us who we are and who God made us to be! We won't have to find out on our own! We learn to trust His love and let the Holy Spirit change our thinking so that we grow spiritually and develop His fruit, the fruit of the Spirit*. We are secure in God's love!

*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



Romans 5:5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Included in what we love in ourselves will be integrity (God's righteousness and justice), love, faithfulness, and honesty. We will be able to accept our weaknesses and our strengths. We'll accept ourselves for who we are and appreciate who God made us to be. Then we will be able to love others as we love ourselves because we will be loving God's righteousness and His divine viewpoint in others and in ourselves. What an awesome love!! We are secure in God's love.

Accept and appreciate who God made us to be!

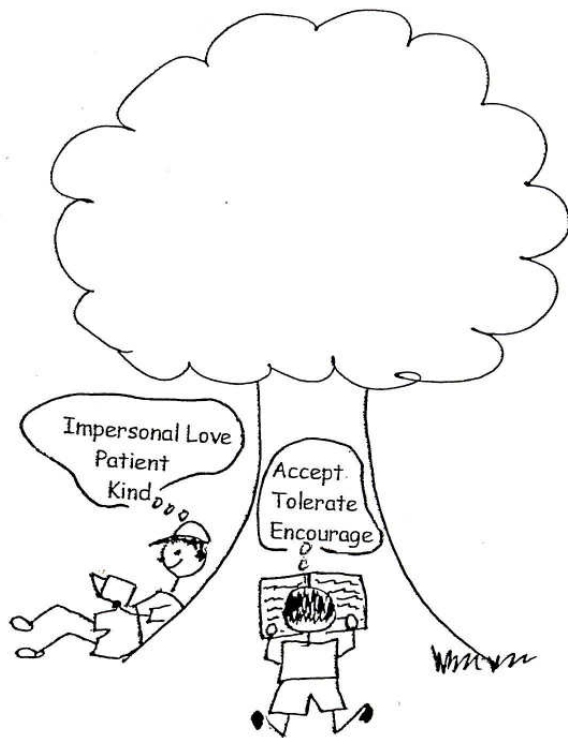


Love others as we love ourselves!



Romans 5:5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.

God makes it possible for us to truly love each other! We can use impersonal love and personal love. There are times we have to use impersonal love. Those are the times when someone is treating us unfairly or being mean to us or not acting according to God's love. We make sure we are in fellowship with God and treat the person with love because of what is in our souls. We don't mistreat or act unfairly to him or her. We use our personal love for others when we love them for who and what they are. When we see good characteristics like integrity (righteousness and justice), love, faithfulness, and honesty in others, we love them. We can trust them. They are showing some of God's nature. That type of person makes us want to love him or her. We are secure in God's love.



John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this [love] all men will know that you are [keep on being] My disciples, if you have love for one another.

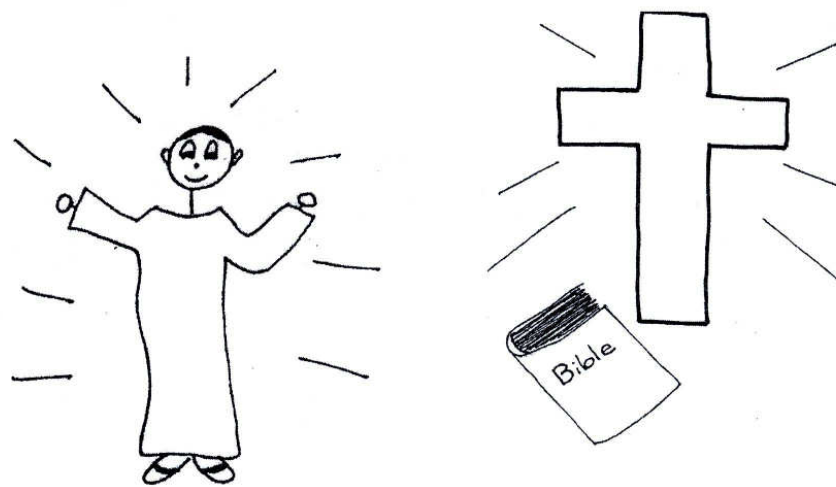
There is nothing we can do to earn the love of God. We are qualified only by faith in Christ. This is grace! Remember, grace is all that God is free to do for mankind because of the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. When we become believers, God loves His righteousness in us. He loves His righteousness with an infinite love. So, He loves us believers with an infinite love. Amazing! As believers with God's +R, we have the ability to love ourselves like never before; we can learn to love God and His thinking in us. When we know God, we will love and serve Him. We will love the thinking we have about Him. We will love ourselves, and we will love and serve others. There will be a whole lot of loving going on, and it will all be done through the power of God! We are secure in God's love!



John 15:9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love."

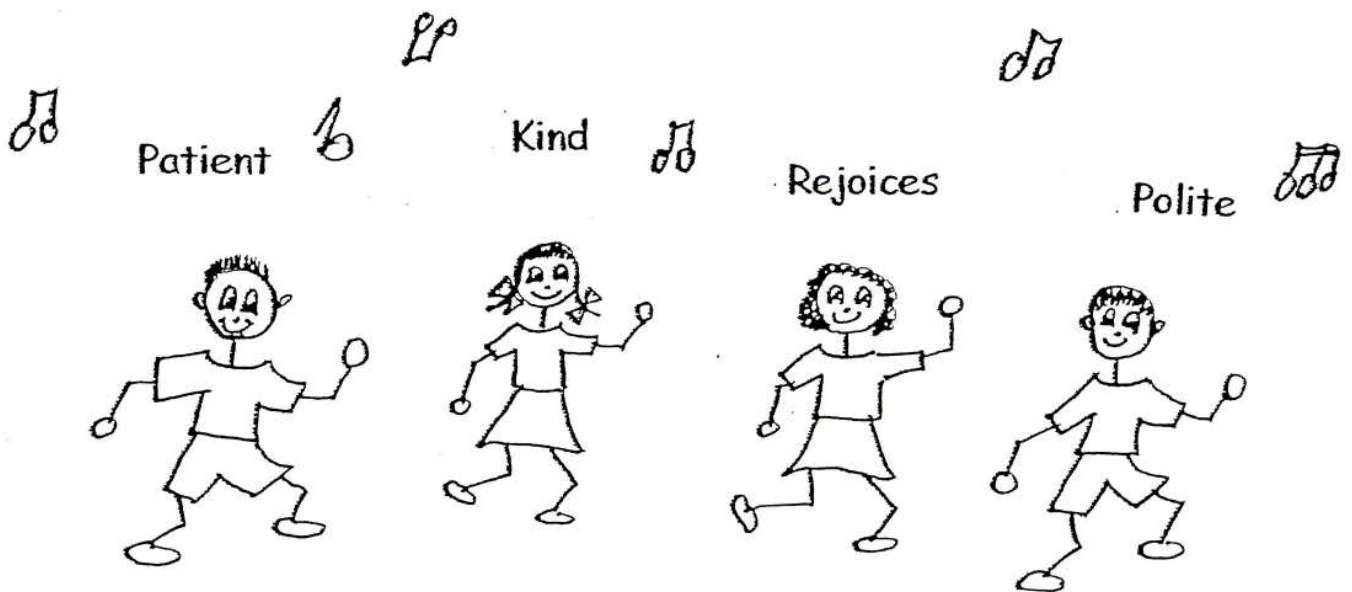
John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment [command], that you love one another, just as I have love you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

God gave us common ground or familiar territory to share with one another; He gave us Jesus Christ and His thinking, the Bible. We have to make sure we make use of this common ground and learn Bible doctrine through the filling of the Holy Spirit. When we have Christ's thinking in us, we will see it in others. If we don't have it in us, we will never see it in others! When we see Christ in ourselves and in others, we will have fantastic friendships. We'll have the same thinking, the thinking of Christ! What fantastic thoughts!



2 Peter 3:17-18 You therefore, beloved [Royal Family] , knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen

God doesn't ask us to be good or smart. He asks us to love Him, ourselves, and each other. Once we do this, our lives will be changed. We will be occupied with Christ and not with ourselves! We'll be occupied with God's plan for our lives and not our plan! We'll want to protect and help our friends like Jesus Christ protects and helps His friends, the Royal Family. And we'll know that they want to protect and help us. We'll see the glory of God and the workings of His fantastic essence! We'll be able to see it in ourselves and in others! What a sight! We are secure in God's love!

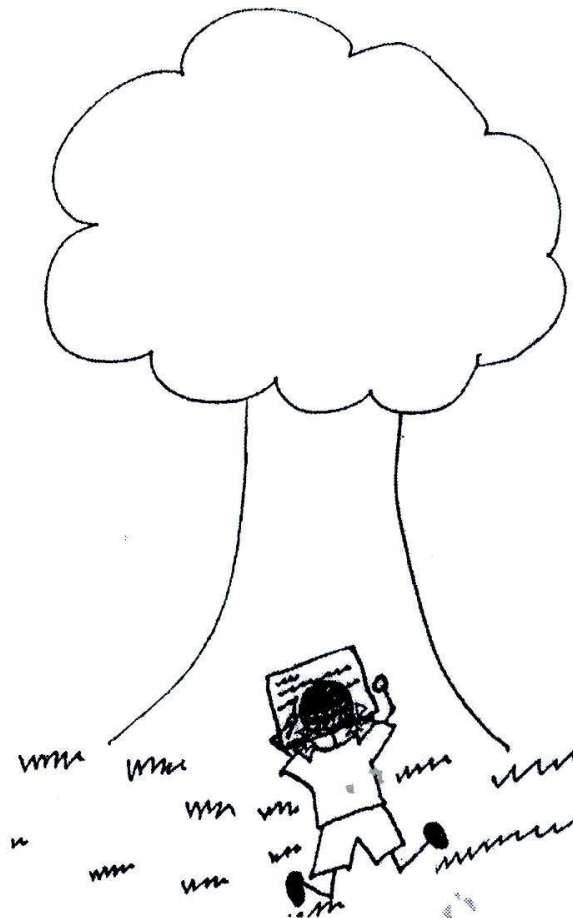


1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.

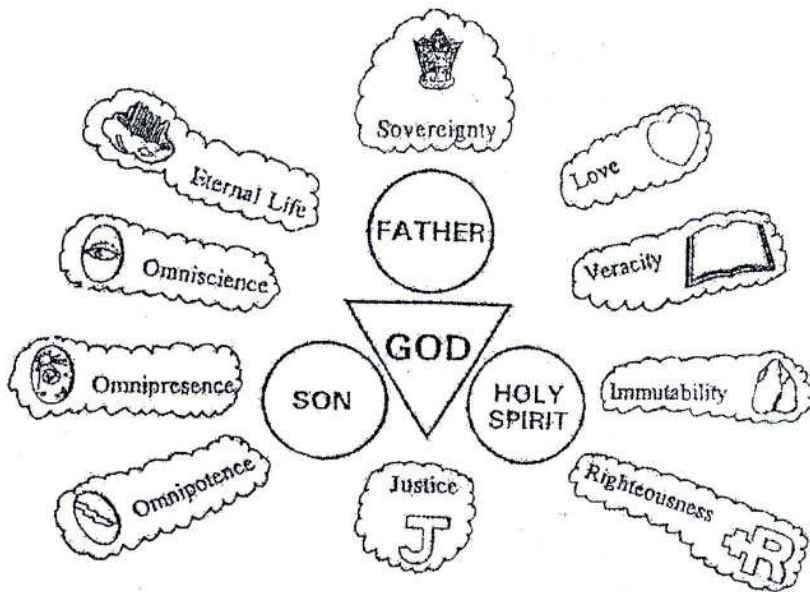
Points to Remember

1. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all have perfect righteousness or perfect goodness. They love that in each other.
2. At salvation, we receive God's righteousness. That is what He loves in us.
3. God shares His love with us; He has impersonal love for all mankind and personal love for believers.
4. We have to know God before we can love Him and truly love ourselves. We have to truly love ourselves before we can love others.
5. We are to accept ourselves for who we are and appreciate who God made us to be.
6. We will use impersonal and personal love.
7. There is nothing we can do to earn the love of God. We are qualified only by faith in Christ. This is grace!
8. God doesn't ask us to be good or smart. He asks us to love Him, ourselves, and each other.

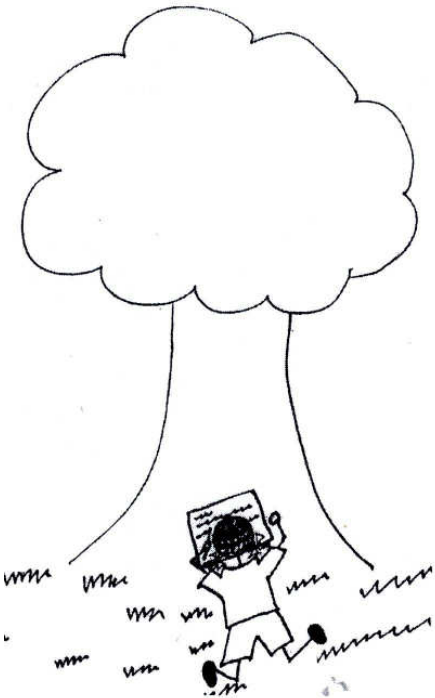


Questions for Discussion

1. Why does God love Himself?
2. What kind of love does God have for all mankind? What kind of love does He have for believers?
3. What do believers have so God can love them personally?
4. How do we learn to love God?
5. How do we learn to love ourselves?
6. How do we learn to love others?
7. What will we love in ourselves?
8. What will we love in others?
9. What is impersonal love?
10. What is personal love?
11. Can we earn God's love?
12. Does God ask us to be good or smart? What does He ask us to do?



Word Search for *Secure in God's Love, Part 2*



X	H	B	P	V	L	A	P	Q	S	F	T	E	S	I
L	F	I	S	P	S	A	N	U	S	L	X	F	N	S
V	A	S	U	P	F	F	E	N	E	I	K	J	J	L
A	I	T	S	Z	S	T	V	C	N	I	U	W	A	A
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H	T	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	V	L	N	S	X	L
K	A	N	L	A	N	O	S	R	E	P	M	I	G	R

Find These Words:

ACCEPT
CROSS
IMPERSONAL
LOVE
SALVATION

APPRECIATE
FAITH
JESUS
PERSONAL
STRENGTH

CHRIST
GOODNESS
JUSTICE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
WEAKNESS

Secure in God's Love, Part 2

References: Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministries
www.gbible.org

Lessons: 12-26-08, 1-2-09, 1-4-09

