GOD'S LOVE

ANALYSIS

GOD'S LOVE WITHIN HIMSELF
1. What constitutes the Godhead
2. "God is love," I John 4:8
3. The eternal sharing among the three divine persons is the Holy Trinity

GOD'S LOVE FOR CREATURES
- Basis = goodness in creatures
  - To love anything is to will good to that thing different from our love
  - Our will is not the cause of the goodness in things
  - Our will seeks to acquire the good we need, otherwise than God who wants to share what He has
- Differs with different creatures
  - God loves some creatures more than others
  - God wills for some creatures greater good
  - Some creatures are better because God wills them to possess more

OUR LOVE FOR GOD

KINDS OF LOVE
- Self-interested
  - Love of concupiscence
    - We wish to benefit from our love of God
    - Worthy and reasoning to God
    - Virtue of hope
- Selfless
  - Love of benevolence
    - We do not look for benefit
    - Highest love
    - Virtue of charity

HOW TO GROW IN OUR LOVE OF GOD
1. Recollection of God's benefits
   - To love God with a perfect heart we must reflect on His goodness to us
2. Meditation on the divine perfections, God is greater than His gifts and greater than our heart
3. Detachment from things of this world, if you take in creatures, you drive out God.
4. Avoidance of all sin, "you cannot serve God and Mammon." if you are in sin, you do not love God (St. Thomas, on the two precepts of charity, vol. IV, p. 420)
5. Acts of love, "make many acts of love for they set the soul on fire," St. Theresa.