

Do You Know How Greatly Beloved of God You Are?

Do you know how greatly beloved of God you are? Do you have a daily awareness of His love for you or have you, as have so many believers, lost touch with the sense that God loves you deeply?

When we have a sense that God doesn't really love us personally, we tend to blame ourselves. Have we done something to offend Him? Is He withholding His love to teach us something? Is it because we aren't praying enough, reading the Bible enough, going to church enough, giving enough, serving enough, living holy enough? Perhaps if we would learn how to pray better, study the word better, live better, and serve better, we would have a better sense of His love. Out of desperation to once again feel God's love, some will even go to extremes seeking out mystical experiences.

The truth is we NEED to know that God loves us. We have good news for you. God's love for you is not dependent on what you do or don't do. He loves you. Period. However, when we start to see our relationship with God and His love for us as something contingent on our performance, we will become estranged from God. You see, God loves you based on His grace through faith in Jesus only. When we add conditions to His love, we lose sight of it. This is because we could NEVER EVER do enough or not do enough to earn God's glorious love!

Sadly, in the "Christian" world today, the truth that God loves us and the joy that follows is often looked upon as something only for a new believer, for the person who is focusing only on himself (selfishness), or as shallow. "There's more to the Christian life than knowing you are loved by God! We need to go 'deeper'," we are told. The truth is, NOTHING is more fundamental and important than knowing we are loved by God...not just mental assent to the facts, but a personal knowing of His personal love for you. We hope that this lesson will open your eyes to the truth and importance of knowing God's love.

I. God's Personal Love for You

A. God loved you BEFORE you loved Him or did anything for him.

Titus 3:4-7

*But when the kindness and **the love of God** our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

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Ephesian 2:4-5

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

B. God not only saved us, but He adopted us and loves us as His own children.

1. **The Father has bestowed His love upon us in calling us His Sons. We need not fear God as those under the law because we are God's children.**

Romans 8:15-17

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Ephesians 1:5-6

In love⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

1John 3:1

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.

C. God loved us while we were sinners and gave His Son in death for us. Now that we are His children, He loves us even more and gives us all things. Now that you are His child, He loves you even more.

John 16:27

for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.

1. **How much more!**

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

2. **We are accepted.**

Ephesians 1:6

To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Romans 15:7

Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

3. We are highly favored.

Ephesians 1:6

To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (charitoo) in the Beloved.

4. The word “charitoo” in the Greek is only in one other place in the New Testament.

Luke 1:28

*And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, **highly favored one** (charitoo), the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”*

5. He has made you “highly favored” because you are His child, and since you have been made righteous by Jesus, His favor surrounds you as a shield!

Psalms 5:12

*For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous;
With favor You will surround him as with a shield.*

6. You are beloved (agapetos, dearly loved, beloved).

Romans 1:7

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called saints.

Ephesians 5:1

Become, then, followers of God, as children beloved,

Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God.

D. God not only loves you, He loves you just as He loves Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

John 17:25-26

“O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:23

*I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, **and have loved them as You have loved Me.***

E. God's love for you is to give you everything.

Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

F. God's love for us is greater than we can ever fathom.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

G. God's love for us is so sure and constant that nothing can separate us from His love. God's love cannot be hindered by human emotion, experience, or circumstance.

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:

*"For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

H. God's love for you is not based on your performance. He loved you when you were His enemy. How much more does He love you now that you are His child.

Romans 5:10

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

II. How This Love Affects Our Lives

A. Since you are forever loved by God, you can live fearlessly.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Romans 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

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1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love (His love for us) casts out fear,

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

B. God's love causes us to love each other.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

1 John 4:19

We love, because He first loved us.

C. God's love for us gives us hope.

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Thessalonians 2:16

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace.

III. Common Misconceptions about God's Love

A. False: God loves us only because when He looks at us, He sees Jesus.

- *He loved you individually when you were a sinner involved in sinning apart from Jesus, and loves you even more now that you are His child.*

A. False: God loves me when I am in obedience to Him but is angry with me when I disobey.

- **The truth is God's love for you isn't based on your obedience but on Christ's.**

Romans 5:19

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

- **You are continually cleansed from all sin. There is never any separation from God's love.**

1 John 1:7

If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light (if we are born again), we have fellowship with one another (evidence that we are born of God), and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses (is cleansing) us from all sin.

- **God's loves us as a Father. This love never ceases.**

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:20

So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

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B. False: God loves some people more than others.

Romans 2:11

For there is no partiality with God.

C. False: When difficult circumstances come into our lives, it's a sign that God is not pleased with us and/or that He is punishing us.

- 1. Paul the apostle faced terrible circumstances, but knew God was not angry with him.**

Acts 16:22-26

The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods.²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

D. False: God's love is comparable to human love (contingent on us loving Him, affected by moodiness, etc.)

- 2. God's love is steady and perfect and unwavering, as opposed to human love which can vary with our emotions.**
- 3. God is agape.**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails.

E. False: Our focus should be on loving God.

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

IV. Keeping Ourselves in the Love of God.

Jude 1:21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

A. Recognize that God’s love for you IS demonstrated by Jesus’ death.

Romans 5:8

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

B. Let God direct your heart into the love of God.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

C. Allow yourself to be rooted and grounded in His love for you.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

D. Beholding His love changes us, and causes us to be more like Him. Let HIM change you, not laws or formulas

Hebrews 12:2

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,

2 Corinthians 3:20

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 John 3:2

We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

E. Know and relate to God as your “Abba”.

Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

F. Personalizing His love for you. “I am the disciple who Jesus loves”. “I know God loves everyone, but I’m sure he loves me.”

1. Jesus loved ALL of His disciples equally.

John 13:1

Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

Romans 2:11

For there is no partiality with God.

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2. John called himself “the disciple who Jesus loves” 5 times in the book of John. This was John’s description of himself, not Jesus’ description of John. Jesus loved all of His disciples equally.

a. John personalized Jesus’ love for himself and received “secrets” from Jesus. He knew he was loved and was not afraid to ask questions.

John 13:23-26

*There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 So Simon Peter *gestured to him, and *said to him, “Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking.” 25 He, leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, *said to Him, “Lord, who is it?” 26 Jesus then *answered, “That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.” So when He had dipped the morsel, He *took and *gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.*

3. Paul personalized God’s love for him.

Galatians 2:19b-20

*Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved **me** and gave Himself up for me.*

4. Don’t hesitate to call yourself the disciple who Jesus loves!

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

G. Know and believe that God loves you.

1 John 4:16-17

*We have come **to know and have believed the love which God has for us.** God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ **By this, love is perfected with us.***

H. Always remember that **NOTHING** can separate you from God’s love, and His love will **NEVER** fail you. His love is with you always.

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit (be)¹ with you all. Amen.

1 Corinthians 13:8

Love NEVER fails.

¹ The word “be” for ALL of Paul’s parting words is not present.

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His love for you will NEVER
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