

The Pouting God

From: Know and Believe:
A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You

Taken from Chapter 24: Conditional Love
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God's love cannot be compared to human love because human love is extremely limited. Yet we do often attribute to God the sentiments of man in an effort to understand Him—a practice we need to employ sparingly. Yes, God is our Father, and yes, there are a few fathers who reflect the love of God, but sadly, many parents fall woefully short of demonstrating God's love. Let's take another look at these verses to illustrate this point.

Romans 5:7-8

*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

Notice that the goodness and love of man is being *contrasted* to God's love. It is unlikely someone would die even for a righteous person, even though perhaps for a good person, someone might possibly die. BUT (and this is a good "but"), God's love isn't like that. His love is so extreme, He died for those who were neither righteous nor good. This is the kind of love He holds out for us to see. He wants us to know that no matter how awful we might think we are or how horrible we might think someone else is, He died for all because *He* loves us all.

When we understand God's love is far superior to ours and that it is wiser to *contrast* human love to God's rather than *compare* it, we are better able to rejoice that God does not respond to us with the impatience and unkindness humankind often does.

God doesn't pout when He doesn't get His way in our lives. Instead, He continues to work in us "both to will and to do of

His good pleasure," (Phil. 2:13). He isn't disappointed with us when we make a choice in life that isn't the best. Rather, He begins to work all things together for our good, even our mistakes (Rom. 8:28).

He doesn't put us on a shelf when our usefulness to His kingdom seems to wane. His love doesn't give up on us when we aren't the successes others think we should be. We may feel washed out. Those who look on our lives may do so with pity or disappointment, but God sees our hearts. When we are downcast, He comforts us, encourages us, prunes us, and gives us the rest we need so we may once again bear fruit (Jn. 15:2).

Finally, God's love is not vindictive. You may feel like "the powers that be" are doing all they can to thwart your efforts and punish you, but I guarantee you, this is not your God. He is not condemning you nor seeking to harm you. He is working against all such activity so you may know His kindness and love for you.