

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 3

“I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the LOVE with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them” John 17:26 (ESV)

Key Thought: God manifests His LOVE to us!

I (P David) can remember a few childish incidents in elementary school when I tested whether I was loved or not. In one particular instance during recess I remember sitting on the ground, legs crossed, and my head down (acting sad or upset) “inviting” someone to come and ask me what was wrong or if I was okay. With my heart and my posture I was seeking someone who cared about me. Sounds kind of psycho doesn’t it!?!)

There is no greater personal relationship word in human language than LOVE! A core need at the center of every human heart is the need to be loved. To be loved is to be unconditionally wanted, accepted, and cherished by another. For every human being, the single most important question we desperately want an answer to in life is “am I loved?”

If there is one characteristic that defines God it is love. According to 1 John 4:8 and 16, “God IS love.” These three words communicate that love is who God is. Love is His character. Love is His nature. God can do nothing other than love. God’s love is His unconditional acceptance and His faithful commitment to us. God’s love is not conditional, it’s not based on our performance, it is always accessible and always available.

How does Jesus manifest God’s love to us? In John 17:26 Jesus said, “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, **that the love with which you loved me may be in them.**” God put His love for us on full display through the person of Jesus Christ. John 3:16 is the most widely known verse in the Bible because it communicates how much God loves us, “for **God so loved the world**, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” God was willing to send His one and only Son because He loves us.

1 John 4:9-10 goes deeper in explaining why God sent His Son Jesus Christ, “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the**

propitiation for our sins.” Jesus manifesting God’s love was much more than a kind visit. God sent Jesus to satisfy God’s wrath and pay our penalty of death for sin so that we might live and have a personal relationship with Him.

In Ephesians 3:14-19 the apostle Paul prayed, “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory . . . that you, being **rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge**”. More than anything else, God wants us to know beyond a shadow of a doubt the immensity of His personal love for us. There is nothing we can do that will cause God to love us more and there is nothing we can do that will cause God to love us any less.

Sadly, many of us look to satisfy our need to be loved by others . . . a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a friend, a boyfriend, a girlfriend. In reality, God is the only one who can satisfy the deep need we have to be loved.

Today, be reminded, or be fully convinced for the first time that God loves you!

Questions to Ponder

1. What are some ways you have tried to answer the question, “am I loved” outside of God’s love for you?
Did/does it satisfy?
2. Do you believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that God loves you personally?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Thank God for being love and manifesting His love to you personally through Jesus Christ
2. Ask God for the strength to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?