

The Father's Love

Behold, what kind of Love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

I John 1A

The Essence of God, Our Heavenly Father, is Love. His core...His person...His Being... He cannot separate from it; He cannot give or be anything else...because He... God, the Father, Our Father, is Love (I John 4:8). What's so special and unique about God's Love is, it's a Love of Choice! It's an "Agape" Love. It's unlike Mortal or Human Love... We may have "**Eros**": A Greek word that our English word "Erotic" derives from which is a "physical love"...It would be related to a love between "lovers" and can also be a "lust" kind of love...and we all know that will fade away! There is a place for it between married couples but even with that... in order for the couple to live up to "till death do us part", to keep the vows they've made before God and man, they must have much more than the "Eros" kind of Love.

There is also "**Storgē**". It is the kind of love between family members; parents and children...the fondness people share for relatives is "Storge."

We humans also share "**Philia**," an *affectionate love*, as well. This is where "the city of brotherly love," Philadelphia, got its name from.

All of these forms of "love" have their place, but the greatest love, the ultimate, supreme, superlative love is "**AGAPE**"...**the unconditional love of choice**. Multitudes of hurting people are looking for this kind of love and acceptance but can not find it because we, as humans, tend to seek it through other things, and/ or other hurting, wounded people, just like ourselves. Widespread promiscuous, immoral behavior; doing and sacrificing anything to fit in with, what we believe to be, "elitists" groups; gang involvement; and even excessive "church" involvement are all examples and evidence of our human need of the Heavenly Father's Love.

The emptiness inside can only, effectively, be filled by the Love of God and an intimate relationship with Him. I have found, and know for myself that none of these things, nor any other person can fill it. God and His infinite love will never fail us...*Because...* He has made up His mind that in spite of our actions, when we're at our very best or our very worst; when we are absolutely unlovable...He will love us!! He chooses to love me...The Creator of the Universe chooses to Love Me! WOW... what AWESOME NEWS! This is what Jesus came to tell us and show us. This is the Good News of the Kingdom!

Over the years, as I desired to know this Beautiful God of Love and the realization of His Sovereignty and Awesomeness consumed me, His love for mankind blew my mind even more. I grew up vaguely understanding The Father's Love, even though it was readily available to me. I was a church girl from birth, and I admit, it was not many years ago that I thought I had to measure up...then God would truly love me. I actually thought I could turn God's love for me off and on, based on my actions. I did not understand this Agape Love...this Love of choice...this Love that I did not have to work and *prove* myself for. This is the love written about in John 3:16...For God so Loved (Agape'd) the World that He gave His only begotten Son... God sees us; He knows everything there is to know about us and *still* chooses to Love us.

While we were yet sinners, Jesus Messiah died for us. This is Our Greatest Example of God's Love. I absolutely love the Lord, but I did not come to this love on my own. No. I love Him because He first loved me; and I want you to know that The Father's Love is available and Profits us MUCH.

1. The Father's Love Draws us: I mentioned that I desired to "know" God...but that would have been impossible if it weren't for His love for me. His love is so strong that it draws us. In Jeremiah 31:3 the Father speaks through His prophet and says "**yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you.**"

God, the Father's Love, draws us. What does it mean to draw?... **to make move toward one; to pull; to attract; to breathe in...** His Love is magnetic (powerfully attractive)...and that is what our hearts and everything in us want. We desire this kind of love **because it exists**... but many have, what I call, a *misplaced expectancy or expectation*. This is why most look for this kind of love from other things and people and do not understand that it is God and God Alone who can fulfill that desire. It is His love that completes us! His love is the "wooing" that connects us with Him. God is a Spirit and our spirits connect through His love...we feel and know Him by His Love for us...even when we don't quite understand what's pulling on us. His love makes us run to Him...His love makes us desire Him, His love makes us satisfied; and His Love is the premise for a Relationship with Him that ultimately leads us to repentance.

2. The Father's Love seeks after us and Saves us: for the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost...Luke 19:10;

READ Matt. 18: 1-12

3. The Father's Love Causes us to Repent- Rev 3:19 (Such a good Father, can't hurt Him!); READ Acts 2:37-41

4. The Father's Love chastises and corrects us- Hebrews 12:5-6;

When our children misbehave or are disobedient, as earthly parents who genuinely love them, we must and will chastise them. Well, it is the same with our Heavenly Father. He loves us, so He will chasten us and correct us which, once again, will draw us closer to Him and shape and mold us into the persons we were born to be through Jesus Messiah.

5. The Love of the Father makes us Secure: (Secure: safe and sound, confident, fixed, and sheltered)

I can think of many in the Bible who knew, accepted and understood the Father's Love.

Think of David. He was so confident and secure in the Father's Love and Sovereignty that he had NO doubt he would successfully defeat Goliath. (I Sam 17:4-49)

Think of Daniel. He was so secure in the Father's Love that he did not think twice about loving Him and worshipping Him openly, despite the threat on his life; and as a result walked out of that lion's den untouched. (Daniel 6)

Think of the Three Hebrew Boys, Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego. They refused to bow down to and/or worship the golden image that had been set up at King Nebuchadnezzar's command. They had to have known and been secure and confident in the Father's Love to trust Him and remain obedient in this situation; knowing that they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. They were sure that God was able to deliver them. But what I love so much about this one is, they were so "fixed" in The Father's Love that whether or not God chose to deliver them from the scorching, deadly flames of the furnace, they made it clear that they still would not serve or worship any other god! (Daniel 3:1-25)

Think of the Elijah, when he *overthrew* and put to, complete, shame the prophets of Baal. (I Kings 18:17-46)

These are just a "few" examples. The list can go on and on. The entire Bible is a Testament of the Father's Love and is filled with men and women Secure in that Love.

6. The Father's Love casts out fear: I John 4:18... ***"There is no fear in Love; but perfect Love casts out fear because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love"***. This would be the exact opposite of being secure in the Father's Love. Fear causes us to doubt Him; fear can also cause us to be competitive, self-seeking, covetous, and envious. But it is because we haven't come to the full realization of the Father's Love for us...that He loves us, knows us as individuals, and has a perfect plan for our lives.

7. The Father's Love satisfies us- Ps. 107:9 (For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness); Ps. 103:4-5

8. The Father's Love causes a reciprocated love and reproduces! (Read Psalm 116: 1-2; and I John 4:7-21) I propose that there is NO WAY one can have truly known and experienced The Father's Love and not love Him back and love others. ***"In this love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (an atoning sacrifice) for our sins."***

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (I John 4:10-11)

Embrace this Agape Love...the Father's Love. I guarantee, you will never be the same.