

For the Father Himself Loveth You!

Although these words of Jesus are stated in the context of those who love Jesus they have a scope we often fail to apply. For we know that *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.”* It was the Father’s purpose and intent to find a way to reconnect us with the abundance of His love, through Christ. I have been pondering the words *“For the Father Himself loveth you,”* and I am finding that they are truly Life to us in the battle with our flesh which seeks to rob us of His love.

According to the pen of inspiration, *“In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe.”* *Steps to Christ, page 68.1.* Is there any difference in this grace and the grace that saves the sinner eternally? How could there be? *“For God so loved the **world** that He gave His only begotten Son.”* We alone decide whether or not it saves us in the end, but it is that one grace that came from the *“Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”* That grace reveals the heart of God toward you. The Father, while the prodigal son was afar off, was yet looking and longing - longing that the love and liberty He had lavished on His wayward son would bear fruit. And the son remembered that love when He saw His own destitute state. It was the love of the Father that drew him back. It was the love of the Father that revealed to him his real state. *“And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).*

The love of God sends the Spirit to reveal to us our predicament, because He longs for our return and our comforting in Him. His heart yearns for us to acknowledge our state, that He might be able to rejoice in our salvation and lavish us with His estate. While he was yet a long way off the Father saw him....

Think of this. When Christ, the Master Artist, stooped to mold Adam from the dirt with His own hands; what did this mean? None of the animals were made thus, though they are loved of God. There was an intimacy symbolized in the method of man’s creation, the same intimacy with which Christ healed the blind man, placing mud upon his eyes. He was pointing back to a gesture of His own that we may draw strength from faith in that love. He Himself breathed life into Adam. There is no more intimate picture. God wanted to share Himself with created life at a level that had not been heretofore known, and man was to be the vessel in which this was to be most clearly realized.

We were made in the image of God and created to be “partakers of the divine nature”; made a little lower than the angels and yet designed to move closer to God than any other created being possibly could. It was this investment in man and this desire to draw the whole of sentient life through this new creation, which brought the covenant from the lips of Christ. *“I will covenant my life for theirs, that if they should fall our plan may not be frustrated, and that we can be brought into intimacy with all the created worlds and angelic host, that they might all know a fuller measure of our love. I am willing to die that they might all know your love Father, because your love to me is better than life itself.”*

And God looked at what He had made and saw that it was very good. He was not just looking at trees and sunsets. He was looking at an action in making man that would draw His own creatures into closer ties with Himself and usher in everlasting righteousness; which is, in its purest sense, the love of God.

Do you understand the implications of this, oh lowly sinner?! In our flesh dwells a nature that is the negation of God's love; yet in that very flesh, in the body of Christ, dwelled the express image of God Himself. That flesh lost the battle already, in Christ, and we may by faith take hold of that victory already won, that it may become a reality in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. It is there for the taking, free and abundant, but do we draw back in unbelief?

Think on this. That loving touch that formed Adam is yours, for you were in Adam. You are the creature He made, though fallen. You are the son or daughter on which He breathed, for woman was also made of the same flesh. It was to you He gave all the treasures of Eden. When He looks at you He sees the same object of His love. He delights in you. But more than this, He has drawn you into intimacy by adoption into His very own inner circle. He has given you His own self, in Christ, so that His love can be felt and seen more deeply than any creation has ever known.

Say to yourself, "I am loved with an everlasting love. Though I do not deserve it, (I deserve death because I love my nature of self) yet He has made me the object of His love above all else, that I may be a reflecting light to all else. In this realization of betrayal met with love we will loathe ourselves for our hardness and callousness. But Oh! What sweet shame that brings the Cross to our rescue. When we see this love, how weak and flaccid a thing will sin appear! How could we let it rob us of such a gift? It is a shame to even think of it.

Remind yourself... "I am loved. I am the one over which He stooped, He breathed, and to whom He gave His very own substance and life. What God is this that would do such a thing? I will give myself wholly to Him." Let this be the standard with which you face the battle, for God is with you in it. It cannot fail. Let this be the spring of all action and God will be glorified. Be encouraged and do not turn away His mercies. For "*the Father Himself loveth you.*"

Ephesians 3:17-19

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

If you would like more thoughts or studies on Christ and God's plan of redemption please visit: <http://www.ImagesoftheLight.org>
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