



Loving Because We are Loved

It is easy to be a church of individuals that knows God loved them enough to send his son Jesus to die for them. Because of God's love how are we to love? *Since God has died for all of us how should we treat one another?*

Have you ever wondered how some people can be so loving and some can be so very cruel? Was it their surroundings or was it an event that made them nice or mean? I do not have an answer to this dilemma. I think the better question to ask is - how can we love unlovable people? I think this is the better question because all of us have unlovable qualities. Where do we find the love we need to give? "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

We cannot earn God's love. We could never do enough. God loved us first. In 1 John 4:16 we read - "*God is love, whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*"

Verse 17 tells us that when we are judged we have confidence in God who forgives us. This kind of love was completed in Christ. On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished," signifying that all God asked of us was accomplished in him.

We have confidence because "there is no fear in love." God's perfect love drives out fear - verse 18. What are we afraid of, if we love as God has loved us?

One person said, "Even if Christians do not get along here on earth we better learn to get along because we will be together for eternity." Maybe it will be easier when we get to heaven because we will not be burdened and challenged by our will?

A proven fact in child development is that babies who are held and have their needs tended to experience healthier development than babies who are neglected and ignored. A whole other section of society - the elderly - needs love, too. Let's not stop caring after the nursery years; let's take it to the other end of life. How about taking it to the nursing homes and rehabilitation centers of the elderly?

I was so proud of the members of JOY when, last Christmas we sang hymns at a nursing home and handed out gifts. It was a wonderful way to show love because he first loved us.

Let's pray for wisdom and the courage to act. Godly wisdom can give us the ability to change, which can go a long way to reconcile us to others and others to us.

Keep loving as you keep living,

Pastor John Raddatz