

## Who Loves Without Failing?

Proverbs 19:22 – “What a person desires is unfailing love”.

Since the inception of the Internet, the word *virus* has taken on a whole new meaning to anyone with a computer. Of all the viruses that have been created and deployed through the Internet, there is one that stands head and shoulders above the rest in terms of the number of machines it has infected and the cost to repair its damage. A spokesperson from the Lloyds of London insurance syndicate estimated that at least 10 percent of all computers in the world were infected with this virus. Care to take a guess what it is? That’s right, the “I love you” virus!

Despite the best antivirus software, the “I love you” virus first appeared in China in the early spring of 2000 and quickly spread across the entire world in a matter of days. What’s extraordinary about this particular virus is that it was not much different from other viruses, such as the “Melissa” virus, which appeared just one year prior. Both viruses were distributed and functioned almost identically through an e-mail from a trusted friend. The recipient would be asked to open an attachment which unknowingly contained the virus.

So then why would the “I love you” virus infect and cause more damage than any other previous virus? Possibly because the words “I love you” are some of the most powerful words in the world. And when these words appear in the subject line of an e-mail sent by a friend or family member, we are compelled to open that e-mail. Even despite headline news warnings of the “I love you” virus, people across the world could not resist the temptation to find out if someone had sent them a love note.

From the beginning of time, our desire is for ‘love’. Whether it be as a child desiring love from a parent or as an adult seeking the love of a spouse. We desire to be loved, and to be loved without fail.

That is not within the capability of the human condition, however. We fail. Try as we do, we fail. We were born in sin, and are incapable of unfailing love.

So where do we turn? There is One who knows us; understands our weaknesses and failings; in short – our sins. Yet He still loves us. How much? St. Paul says in Romans 5:8 “***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***”



How easy is it to love the unlovable? We were sinners before our God. Yet, even then, He sent His only Son to not only forgive us, but to restore us ‘in love’ to Him. He is the only One who loves without fail.