

UNDERSTANDING THE LOVE OF GOD SERIES

THE FATHER HEART OF GOD

Rom. 8:31-39 What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also give us all things with Him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulations, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "for thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor thing present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Notice here that the bible says that there is nothing that can separate you from the love of God. We speak about *agape* love. And this love that God has for us is the love we qualify as unconditional. The word *unconditional* means that it is not limited by conditions. Most of the time human love is conditional. What happens is we say to each other, "I will love you," but we attach conditions to our love. When we attach little condition to the giving of our love, it makes our love conditional. And in fact it is not *agape* love because love is a gift. It is no more a gift when you attach a condition to your love. It becomes an exchange. You do some thing, you give some thing and then I give you my love. It is no more the free gift of love that the bible talks about. We never gave God anything. We never deserved anything.

Rom. 5:8 says while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. That is the love that is unconditional and it's a love that is a gift. And we have to rise up above the level to

God's love, which is unconditional. See a love that is unconditional says, "I give you the gift of my love." I do not attach conditions to it. I don't ask that you be good. I don't ask that you be deserving. I don't ask that you exchange something back for my love. Some times parental love for children can be manipulative. That means that we tell our children that if you are good I will love you. If you are bad I won't love you. And we have a preconceived idea that that's the love of God. God never said that. God loves us whether you are bad or you are good. The only difference is that when you are in disobedience you are not in the position to receive the full measure of His love. But even though man may go to hell the Father heart of God beats with love for them. It is not in His plan. It is not in His intention for them to suffer in that way. His love never ceases. His love never stops. And so that kind of love that parent show to children is manipulative love. In other words we manipulate them with our love.

And some times husband and wife use that form of love. But that is not God's *agape* love. That is human affection, human love. And Jesus says that we have to love one another with His kind of love not with our type of love. The truth of the matter is that we should tell our children that we love you no matter what you do, no matter who you are. But we would like you to behave this way. But whatever you do my love for you never ceases. That is called unconditional love.

In the United States they did a survey of all those top criminals in prison. And they found that eighty percent of them in their childhood have never received unconditional love. And they have never have a happy home filled with love. Children need to know that we love them not for what they do, not for what they are but simply because we love them. That is the love that God wants to bring forth in the family in a relationship between a man and wife; in a relationship between Christian brethren. That's the kind of love that we need to have. You see *agape* love that says that I will give you the gift of my love without demanding anything. Also it says that you can be what you are without the fear that I will stop loving you. If it is the love that is unconditional there will never come to a time when it will stop. But if it is a love that is conditioned then there will come a time when it will stop. And when we began to love one another with God's kind of love, we love each other unconditionally. For example I could come to James and say, "I love you with the love of the Lord." What am I saying here? That means I love him with unconditioned love. That means that if I love James with unconditioned love, that

would mean that James can do what he likes. He can say what he wants. He can pour out all his good feelings and his bad feelings. He can pour out all that is hot in him and all that is cold in him. He can pour out all his best and he can pour out all his worst without the fear that I will reject him. That is unconditioned love. When we love with unconditioned love we are actually saying I will never ever reject you.

Think about human kind. All the time most of us received rejection to a certain amount. I have experienced rejection before so have you. What is happening is human being is still governed by conditional love. But when we have a glance of God's kind of love its unconditioned; God never ever reject us. You watch the Old Testament every time they did the worst possible. One of the worst kings was Ahab. One of the worse was Manasseh. And it tells us he did every thing that was wicked. It made God very angry. The bible says that when he says God I am sorry immediately God loved him and God forgave him. And Ahab he did terrible things. He started Baal worship in Israel. He made God to anger. But there was one time where there was a little hint of repentance in his life. After he had got Naboth's vineyard Elijah came to him and rebuked him and says thus says the Lord. Ahab went back and he put on sackcloth and he wept. And God said He would not mete the punishment in his time. I want you to understand the heart of God. He is called the God who is ever forgiving. I am sure if Adam and Eve had just come and say we are sorry instead of putting the blame on each other, they would have been forgiven. They feared God and they feared rejection. They feared that God would reject them.

And so with each other we fear to be rejected. God says I will love you with an everlasting love. And the love that God has for us surpasses all our human comprehension of love. The bible tells that in Ephesians three that Paul was still praying for them that they might know and comprehend that love of God, the width, the length, the depth, the height of God's love. It's a tremendous love. It never ever rejects. King David knew this. He knew God's heart. He knew what God's heart was like. And when he fell into sin in numbering the Israelites, God sent the prophet Nathan and said, "Choose from these three judgments." See the judgment that we experience are the reciprocal of the laws that has been set. But he had a choice of three: either to be chased by his enemies, experience famine and he says I choose to fall into the hand of God because He is a merciful God. That is a smart guy. I don't want to be pursued by my enemies. I would rather if any one

were to give me a spanking let God give it to me. That's what he was saying. I don't want my enemies to spank me. If there is any one who want to discipline me I want it to be God because He the most kind person in the universe, most merciful. And true enough God's mercy and love reached out. When the angel drew the sword against Jerusalem the bible tells us that God's heart reaches out. His heart of love said, "Enough." See every time God spank them He felt the pain. That is the heart of God.

This morning I like you to beat with the heart beat of God and to understand His unconditioned love. And when I began to look at the love of God and began to understand more about the love of God, I began to realize how limited human love is. All of us go through time and all of us have been through experiences. When we ourselves condition our love to others, every time you come to a place where you reject another person it only shows that your love for them has been conditional. True *agape* love never ever rejects. A person could criticize all they want and you are like Jesus and with unconditioned love you say, "Father forgive them for they know not what they have done." Look at Jesus His unconditioned love was pouring out through His being. They could crucify Him , they could beat Him, they could spit at Him, they could pull His beard out and He still say, "I love you." What kind of love is that? It is the love when people rejected Him He still says, "I will not reject you."

Lets see some verses on this love of God. In the book of Isaiah chapter 49:15 sometimes people have a misunderstanding of the Old Testament. They don't understand that in the Old Testament is the same Father whose heart beat still beat with a heart of love. Isa. 49:15 *Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.* This is the Old Testament God speaking. And Isaiah lived in the time of Hezekiah who saw the destruction of Israel. The period of Hezekiah was interesting. Hezekiah was the king of the southern kingdom of Judah. And Isaiah lived at that time to see the destruction of the northern kingdom. Jeremiah the prophet was up there. Isaiah the prophet was down here. Both of them spoke of God's love. Even though the judgment came because of what they did they reaped what they sow. God says I will never forget you. And He was not talking to a lovable lot. He was talking to a most despicable, unlovable, ungrateful group of rascals who were having idol worship, all over in Israel, on high places on every hill. And He says I

will not forget you. This unconditioned love was flowing forth from the Father heart of God. Jeremiah in the northern kingdom said this. Lamentations 3:22 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end.*

Now Paul never had any New Testament to read. The only bible Paul had was the Old Testament. I believe he got I Cor. 13 besides the revelation from the Spirit of God was in his meditation of the Old Testament scriptures. And here is where Paul probably got his verse where he says *love never fails*. In other words love never ends. In other word love never comes to a point where it says I will not love you any more. What is rejection? Rejection is actually saying I have come to a point where I will not love you. But the love of God never ever comes to that point. The love of God always says, "I will always love you."

And God at this time through Jeremiah show forth, he is called the weeping prophet, who cried out for the love of God for the Israelites. And he says *his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."* I can still trust in His love. We reap what we sow but I can trust in His love that He will never cast us off.

Then in verse 31 *For the Lord will not cast off for ever, but, though He cause grief, He will have compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love.* Which is why I say that you can disagree without being disagreeable. Many times people argue doctrine. Many times people discuss methods in Christendom. But in the midst of their discussion they come to the point where they say I will never love you I reject you. But we must never. We must always realize that God's unconditioned love says that even if your doctrine disagrees with mine I still love you. Even if your method disagrees with mine I still can love you. The unity that we have in Christ Jesus can only come when all of us understand unconditioned love. Unless the church of God and the kingdom of God on this planet earth is built on unconditional love we will never see the unity of the Spirit of God. It will only come by the unconditioned *agape* love of God.

And God tells us in Deut. 7 He told the Israelites that I have chosen you. I have

loved you because I love you not because he was strong. Not because he was mighty. Not because of who you are. He told them very clearly in Deut. 7. The Hebrew word when He said I love you is the word *hased*, which means I am kind to you. I desire to just love you and do the best for you. See love is in three stages. The first stage of love is kindness. Kindness says that I love you and I care about you and I am on your side. The opposite of rejection is to say I am with you; I stand with you. And all the time the devil has been fooling man to think that God is against us. Today he is still working in the minds of Christians. We always think that God is against us. At the back of our mind we fear Him, we fear to be rejected. At the back of our minds He works on us. And finally when Jesus came we realize that God says through Jesus in what Jesus did He says I am on your side. Even though I am the judge of the universe I don't want to see you condemned so He sent His Son. See God is on our side.

That is why Paul got that revelation where he says if God is for us who can be against us? Now bring it closer home to our love for each other. Do you know many times you tell another person you are not on my side? How many have this incident repeated in many Christians relationship. But if we love each other with the love of God say, "I am on your side." Denominations fight because they say, "You are not on my side." What kind of love are Christians showing to each other? Shame on us if we put conditions to our love. The bible says that love says, "I am on your side." Remember what we said in the earlier series. We said love seeks the highest good in a person. I am on your side I seek the best for you. Do you know everybody in the world needs to hear that? There are many people out there on the streets today that think that God is a great judge up there who is against them, seeking to punish them, seeking to judge them. They didn't know the heart of God that God is on their side. That God loves them. God cares for them.

Here is where we began to see the heart beat of God. In the book of Luke 15 in the story of the prodigal son, the prodigal was not doing what the father wanted. The prodigal son chose to go his own way. The prodigal spent all his inheritance and wasted it. The prodigal son did everything he can to hurt the father. Let me tell you everything that is wrong on this earth hurts the Father. When the father has to give the inheritance to the prodigal son, I can tell you the father's heart bleeds. It hurts. Some people think that when judgment comes God does not hurt. He hurts more than we do. All of you who are parents realize this. When you have to discipline

your children it hurts you as much. It hurts. That is why in Genesis 6 before the flood came God revealed in His Word, "and God was grieved." You know what grief is. It is the same word that says sorrow. God is sorrowful. He feels sad. Imagine the great creator of the universe and the galaxy He feels sad because a bunch of human beings down there didn't obey His laws. He has feelings. When the judgment came not only did the cries of humanity go off. Many of them may have cried when they died. The heart of our Father cried louder than them. He cried when the judgment came. He was grieved.

When Jesus was on the cross don't tell me the Father don't have feelings. Jesus felt the hurt of sins for us. Took the pain of sin and death for us. Jesus felt it even though our Father didn't come down like Jesus did. Our Father up in heaven felt the hurt. For a moment He has to turn His eyes away. That's when Jesus said, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" Our Father hurts when the judgment came.

One day the prodigal son came back the bible says in Lk. 15:20 *And he rose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.* The father has been looking for his son. That is why when the son was far away the father could see him. He has been looking in that direction all the time waiting. The bible says he was full of compassion. And he had so much love that before his son came he ran to the son and hugged the son and kissed him. He brought the son home, ordered the fatted calf to be slaughtered, had a party eat and be merry. He wants to rejoice because his son has come back.

Notice here, look at what the other son comes to do. Lk.15:25 *Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound. But he was angry and refused to go in.*

Look at the attitude of the older brother. He saw all these things happening the music, the dancing, the fatted calf killed and merry making. He refused to go in and

when the father came out. I want you to see in verse 28 what the father did to him. *His father came out and entreated him.* The father didn't just ask him to go in. The father said come on son please go in. He pleaded. Now look at the reasoning of the elder son in verse 29. *But he answered his father, "Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!"* And he said to him, *"Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.* First the father cleared his misconception. The father says that you could have as many parties as you wanted to. But the older son says I kept all your commandments. See the older son kept the commandment but didn't know the heart of the father. He didn't know that the father loved him enough to the point that he could have what he wants. He still didn't understand unconditioned love yet. See his understanding of the father was still on conditioned love.

Let me tell even though our Father has unconditioned love for us, we many times have misunderstood His love to be conditioned. It takes the breaking of the wall down. But I can tell if that is broken in your life you will never be the same again. If you get a hold of the unconditioned love of God for your life, you will never be the same person again. What was the attitude of the older son? He says I have kept your commandments, I have done all these things but you never gave me. He was not sure of the father's heart. He wanted to earn so that the father would come to the point and son you now deserve it. But the father says you don't have to earn it. It is yours; you could have had it any time. The reasons why he never enjoyed himself is because he doubted the unconditioned love. And many of God's children today who go about life who still think that they have to earn God's love. You never earned God's love when you meet God in your sin. Don't try to earn it now that your sins have been washed in the blood. You could never earn it. What you do for a million years can never earn His love because His love is a gift. He did not ask an exchange He just wants to give His love. For God so loved the world that He gave.

And verse 32 *It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.* See the older brother saw the merry making. The older brother saw the feasting. The older brother saw the fatted calf. The older brother saw the dancing. But older brother never saw the heart of the father. The

older brother never saw the hurt of the father when the son was gone. The older brother never realized what the father went through. He saw all the benefits that were there. But he never saw the grief of his father when the father was deprived of the younger son. And many of God's children they will go about doing things but never realize that what they do hurts the Father. You see we see God's blessings. We see what God had done here. What God has done there? We never see the heart of God. Sometimes people are like Cain. They look at Abel and say, "Abel has been blessed by God." But they never see that Abel was blessed because Abel somehow has made God happy. And God told Cain, "If you do well you also would have received the same blessings." God loves everybody unconditionally. But what happened was that like David we must learn the heart of God. David knew the heart of God. That is why in anything that happened he runs to God. He didn't run away. But many times when trouble comes, when we fall, when we disobeyed, whatever happens, failure comes into our lives we tend to run away from Him than run to Him. Because we fear Him. We fear His rejection. God says come to me I will never reject you.

The heart of the father of the prodigal son was bleeding with grief and sorrow. The older brother knew everything about the father's love except his heart. If you want to be a child of God that pleases our Father you have to learn the Father's heart. And not just His commandments and the words but the heart beat of God. So that you began to understand that in your relationship with one another is not so much what we do but is what our Father's heart feels. And Jesus was so sensitive to the Father's heart of God when He went to the waters of baptism the Father said "This my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

I had an experience of the heart of our Father and His love. What it was that I could never ever forget. On January 18th 1986 early in the morning. That whole night I could not sleep because on the 17th it was when the Lord appeared to me and shared with me about the anointing of God. So the whole day I just spend in worship and praying. See when you have been with the Lord its not easy to forget that kind experience or come out of it the same. But on the 18th in the early hours of the morning, my family was all asleep. I was still sitting down in the dark room and praying. Suddenly from one corner of the room came a ball of light. It came towards me and then it stopped at a certain distance. Then as I was looking I recognized the presence of God. And I said, "God I know its You. Welcome into my

life." The moment I said that the ball of light spread out into words. And the words that were formed were "Holiness onto the Lord." Then those wordings came close to me and started coming nearer and nearer. And it came to a point where it hit me on the forehead.

The moment those words touched me on the forehead I was in a different world. For the first I felt what the love of the Father was like. I knew He love me but I have never experienced that kind of love to that measure. When His glory touched me I was like in a different world. I don't know whether I was still here or up there. But it was like that I was outside of the planet earth. I was looking at the whole planet earth and it was just like a ball. While I was looking at the planet earth I felt every sorrow the Father felt. I felt every pain He felt. I felt every hurt He felt. I felt every grief He felt. To understand what it is, is like this. Every small thing that was not in line with the will of God and the Word of God was hurting Him. You felt the pain of the world. You literally felt it. Even if one bird drops down to the ground and die our Father felt the pain. You know why? He made those birds. And He never made them to die. And I could feel the hurt of every human being whose lives were not in the will of God. You could feel everything that was not in line with His will. Every one of the diseases that was not in line with the will of God, anything that hurt human being hurt God. And all those things that were done that were not in line with His will that was against the goodness of man and the perfection of man was causing hurt to God. Every bit of it. Every single thing on this planet earth that was not in line with His will hurts Him.

I felt such sorrow, such grief, that my eyes were literally pouring out tears. I felt that I was one with God. And I began to feel what He felt. I literally poured and cried with the love of God for people. When I came out of that I looked at the world. When I see anything that is not perfect I realize that our Father is hurting. Then I understood that the scripture says in Matt. 10:29-30 when it says not a single sparrow shall fall to the ground without God knowing. And not a single hair on your head is unknown to Him. Even the hairs of your head are numbered. O the heart of our Father.

That was the heart that Jesus revealed in the prodigal son. See the elder brother

could only think about all the things in the house. But the father says this younger son is my son. I gave him life. I brought him into the world. He is mine. This world belongs to our Father. He made it. Everything on this planet earth, every creature on this planet earth belongs to our Father for He made it. And every time those things that are not in His will it hurts the Creator's heart. I will never be the same again when I understood His love and felt the heart beat of our Father. And yet many times believers go about doing what they want to and they do not seek the will of the Father. We see the dancing. We see the merry making. We see the fatted calf. Privileges that we should have received, we see the blessings, we see the gifts and we see the fatted calf. We see what we deserved, we see what should have been ours but we never see our Father's heart.

Right now this very moment and every day until the Lord Jesus comes again our Father's heart is weeping. Until everything on this earth is brought subject to Jesus Christ it is still causing hurt to the Father. Every individual, every nation and every thing that is not flowing with what our Father wants, He desires that everything be brought under the Lordship of Christ. And I thank God that there is a day coming that the book of Revelations tells us that the kingdom of God is on this earth. And finally after six thousand over years the heart of our Father stops hurting. When Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. When every human life begin flowing into the will of God. When every creature and human being is brought into the perfect will of God. When there will be no more tears, no more pains, no more death, no more suffering then and only then will the Father's heart stops feeling the pain. And every time when I pray and intercede all I have to do is to remember what our Father feels.

The next time you find it difficult to love one another, all you have to remember is that what you do is not what the Father wants you are part of His hurt too. I don't want to cause hurt to my Father. Neither should any one of the children of God. There is enough hurt in this world that causes hurt to our Father's heart. Even when the apostle Paul met Jesus, Jesus felt the hurt too. Jesus told Paul, "Saul, Saul why do you persecute Me?" Paul never met Jesus. But every time Paul touched one of His believers, every time Paul imprisoned them, every time Paul abused them, every time Paul persecuted them Jesus felt every hurt and Jesus said, "Paul why do you hurt Me?" And God is asking that question of your life. If you are not living in the will of God, if you are doing some things that are hurting to God, if you are

doing things that hurt another human being, if you do things that hurt the body of Christ, if your life and attitude hurts any one, God does not come to you and say, "Why do you hurt them?" God says, "Why do you hurt Me?" For when you love even the smallest you love God. Jesus told them this parable. He says I was in prison and you visited me. I was hungry and you fed me. And they asked, "Where Lord?" And Jesus said, "As much as you do to this little one you do it to Me." Our Father's heart feels the hurt of every single thing that is not in line with His will.