

Perfect Love

series

The Facts of Love

There is one thing that every believer can trust in, and that's the love of God. All of us can testify to the fact that not many things in life are trustworthy. Certainly, if compared to His love for His children. But His love for you and I is unparalleled to anything in this life.

That's a very important thing to know as a believer. To know we are loved is a basic human instinct. And to go a step further to know its secure is vitally imported as well. I have a peace about Beth and my relationship. No matter what we have been through or what we will go through. I know our love is secure. The need to know that is critical to our growing together.

But with that said there are things we must do on my part to make that love grow. Because far too many are missing out on the "facts of love". This is not an exercise to get God to love us more by the way. That's done.

John 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

Have you ever said about something, "it doesn't get any better than this"? That's true of God's love. A song, a vacation, a great conversation with friends.

Now just like in a marriage that is built on trust and security. Our relationship with God is built on the same principles. And what happens in this environment is a growing and maturing life together.

Short of this is a relationship that suspicion, mistrust and can lead to a performance based relationship.

Here's where I want to go with my thoughts this morning. It's necessary for everyone to receive it and return it. While many get stuck in the unproductive cycle of needing God too prove it. Others are enjoying "Life with God".

1 John 4:8-10 *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

Here's a sticker shock to some believers. You have a part in this growing relationship with God.

Mark 11:30 The Message Bible "Jesus said, 'Love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.'"

I have three thoughts for you concerning the facts of love

Love restrains us

This word is the same as the word imprisoned.

Ephesians 3:1 *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles.*

Paul uses an unusual word here prisoner, *desmios*, to imprison or be in confinement.

Exodus 21:5-6 *But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' 6 then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.*

A bondservant is a slave. In some translation use the Greek word *doulos* for *bondservant*, which means "one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of, his master; a slave." Other translations use the word slave or servant.

The Mosaic Law allowed an indentured servant to become a bondservant voluntarily.

William Barclay a Professor at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, said. "If a man is in prison for some great cause he may either grumblingly regard himself as an ill-used creature, or he may radiantly regard himself as the standard-bearer of some great cause. The one regards his prison as a penance; the other regards it as a privilege. When we are undergoing hardship, unpopularity, material loss for the sake of Christian principles we may either regard ourselves as the victims of men or as the champions of Christ. Paul is our example; he regarded himself, not as the prisoner of Nero, but as the prisoner of Christ."

1 John 2:1-4 *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

Mark 9:35 *And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, if any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.*

eh'·ved (eved), Hebrew word for bondservant.

Love stabilizes us

This is where love builds steadiness, peace and calm in the relationship.

1 John 2:10 *He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

Love completes us

1 John 2:5 *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

Perfect is the Greek is *teleoo*. It means to be complete.

1 John 4:17 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 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. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.*

Anonymous quote, "It takes millions to complete the world but only one to complete me".

There is a famous line in the movie Jerry McGuire. "You complete me".

1 Colossians 2:9 *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

You saved me to be free, You saved me to be forever Yours!