

Love, Love, Love

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The Foundation of Love

"God is love." 1 John 4:16 (The Trinity)

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God." 1 John 3:1

Objects of Our Love

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

"Love your enemies." Matthew 5:43

We often miss the fact that we need to love ourselves.

Characteristics of Love:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs . . . it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The Failures of Our Love

"We have not loved [God] with our whole heart. We have not our neighbors as ourselves." Sunday confession

A Perfect Example of God's Love #1

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." John 3:16

A Perfect Example of God's Love #2 (The Prodigal Son)

"When [the prodigal son] came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him; 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still was a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. . . .

But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fatted calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.' Luke 15:17-24

It all starts with God's great love for us. This love is so far above us that most of us comprehend only a small percentage of it. But it is core to everything else and key to our becoming Christ-like and growing deeper in our faith.

Remember:

1. He rejoices over you (Zephaniah 3:17)
2. He sings over you (Zephaniah 3:17)
3. He has summoned you by name (Isaiah 43:1)
4. God adores you

Have you yet embraced the embracer?