

## God's Love...

Greetings of peace and love in the name of our Lord. A Christian wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained for all to read, that it did not make sense to him to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time – and the Pastors are wasting theirs by giving one at all." This letter started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall what the menu was for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be dead today. The message of the Lord and attending a worship service is a food for our soul. It's a spiritual food that nourishes our whole being. It gives us opportunity to give thanks. Truly the sermon is a Spiritual food not only to the listener but to the messenger. What kind of food would I share this afternoon? Today I want to share message that continues to make my life full, a message that inspires me in my journey of faith, our message is entitled God's Love.

**God's love.** The theme of the message is just two words, but these words are the ones that bring meaning and fulfillment to our life. The first is God, which is our creator, redeemer and sustainer. The second is love, the lyrics of a Beatles song is all you need is love, or according to the song of Eagles, love will keep us alive. We all know that love is defined as an emotion of strong affection and personal attachment. So what if the two words were put together, God and Love. Together let us learn some characteristics of God's love and how should we respond from it. There is a lot of description of God's love, for me these three characteristics is enough to challenge us to show our love in return to our Lord.

First one: **(1) God's Love is Unconditional, a love without condition.** In the world around us, people are loved on the basis of their performance. When someone pleases us, when someone stimulates us, we appreciate what they do and we use the term "love" to describe our response. But God's love is not based on our performance! God's love, instead, is unconditional. The reading at Romans 5:6-8, describe this kind of love. **You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** Nothing made us attractive to God! On the contrary, we were despicable to God. But despite our problems it was God's will to love us. God's love is unconditional because it is the result of his sovereign choice. God's love has nothing to do with our goodness; God's love has nothing to do with our performance. God already knows the worst about us -- and God chose to love us!

**The second characteristic is (2) God's Love is from Everlasting to Everlasting:** In our lives today, in a moment of intense feeling, we say, "I will love you forever!" -- Yet within years, or months, or even weeks, those feelings change. Married people promise each other love and faithfulness, but within a few years of marriage it changes. The recent one

that I know a celebrity got married, but after 72 days they got divorce, it's a marriage for publicity and not love. What about God's love? The Psalmist compares our lives to flowers that dry up and are gone, in Psalm 103 says: **As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children.**

Human love is compared to a flower that dried up and is gone; love that we promise to last forever may disappear in a very short time. But God's love is "from everlasting to everlasting." "From everlasting to everlasting" can mean "from the beginning of time to time without end." Think about this: there never was a time when God did not love you; there will never be a time when God does not love you.

**Question? Do you think the Love of God fail? The third characteristic will reflect the answer; (3) God's Love Never Fails:** Human love fails. Even in the best of relationships, we let our loved ones down. As humans, we also sometimes feel like God's love fails. In times of tragedy, natural calamities and trials and tribulation we sometimes wonder and ask where God is? In my country, poverty and corruption continues to be the main issues of the society, it seems that it is never ending and God is not in the midst to provide solution. In these terrible times of tragedy, is God there?

Consider these verses from Isaiah 43: **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.**

God promises us that even in the most hard and challenging situation, God's love will endure. We belong to God, and God will stay right with us forever. Does God promise to keep us from troubles? Does God say, "I love you so much, I will give you an easy and comfortable life?" No, not at all. Rather, God promises to be there in the midst of our troubles. God says, "The path you must take may be through the rivers, but you will not drown; the path may be through the fire, but you will not be consumed in the flames." There is always God's strength, God's hope and God's faith.

If this is the characteristics of God's love, how should you respond with this kind of love given to you? Our response is in action, sharing the love to others. Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

You can have faith that moves mountains, but if you don't have love, you are nothing. Truly, we can have and experience anything in this world, but if you did not response with the love of God that was given to you, you are nothing. I don't want to be nothing that is why I responded, I trust God with my life and the life of my family. If we trust God, our Human love will be modeled on God's love. We will show our love with no condition, show a love that is eternal, show a love that does not fail and a love that is shared to others. Amen