

# God's Love Is Selfless

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BIG SANDY, Texas—As we contemplate our journey as Christians, we should remind ourselves often of the basics: God is Love and we are His children, developing and growing to be like Him.

Many scriptures speak of God's love for His children and for all mankind, but John defines God's very composition as being love (1 John 4:8, 16).

He says that God is Love. I capitalize the word *Love* here because, used this way, it is synonymous with and is used as another name for God.

It follows, then, if we are to be like our Father God (all children are made of the same substance as their parents, whether human, animal, vegetable, microbial, etc.), when His work is complete in us we will be Love.

## **Greater than human love**

This is a kind of Love only He has to give and one that we as flesh and blood cannot find apart from Him.

Many people try to separate God's type of Love from various types of human love, such as the love between siblings or the love of very close, lifelong friends or the love of mother to child—and the list can go on. God's Love includes all of those and infinitely more.

There are reasons we are given all of these opportunities for relationships that include love in this life. We are to learn to appreciate the many aspects of Love making up our Father.

There is a huge difference, however, between our very best human loving relationships and the Love of which God is composed.

## **Focused on His children**

God's Love is the manifestation of an attitude that is completely outward and selfless, always concerned and focused on us as his children.

Even His declarations about being a jealous God and His requirements that we worship Him and Him alone because there can be no other god but Him may seem self-serving or even egotistical on the surface (which is fine; He is God, after all!). But He knows nothing is more beneficial to mankind than to put Love (what He is) first and foremost and above all other things.

So the command to put Him (Love) at the very top of the list and never have anything above Him (Love) is, in itself, a loving act.

### **Maturing in our love**

Maybe we can use this understanding of God's Love as a yardstick for our own actions. Can we really show love to your friends or neighbors expecting *nothing* at all in return?

Are we totally selfless as we find ways to serve others, or is there a hidden place in our mind that wants to be noticed for what we do?

Do we want to be appreciated for our service and even praised, or at least thought of or spoken of favorably?

Of course we do! Everyone wants some sort of recognition. It's all part of being human, and that is exactly my point. This *journey* is about becoming more like our Father and *less* like a human.

I don't know about you, but I have a long way to go, folks. There are times when I get closer than other times, but I find those times are when I get myself (my own will or desires) out of the way and allow God to do something beneficial through me.

### **The only source**

You see, God is the only source for His kind of Love. We can't somehow be good enough to develop it.

That doesn't mean we just sit back and do nothing. It is our job to passionately crave for Him to live in us and to seek a closeness with Him with all we have, and then to stay out of the way so He can do His work and His will in us and through us.

This is the "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" part of creation.

As we seek the continuation of that creation in ourselves and allow Him to keep making us into His likeness as He sees fit, our life will look different to others. We may actually be recognized in some way for our good works. But they will be *His* good works, not ours. Our recognition will be for His glory, not ours.

### **Wonderful gift**

Let me repeat. This complete selflessness that we are discussing is a major factor that separates God's Love from our very best effort as humans. His Love is on a higher plane.

As we ask for His gifts, we might be wise to ask for His help in understanding His love and allowing it to direct our decisions and life more completely.

Here's another way to say all of that: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).