

Undeserved Love

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Introduction: Are You Thankful for God's Love?

- A. God's love is a *great* love! (**Eph. 2:3-6**).
 - 1. What's so great about God's love? God loved us, even when we were disobedient and dead in our sins. He showed us mercy we did not deserve!
 - 2. God's love is great because that's who God is: His love is not determined by how lovable we are, but on whom God is (**Deut. 7:7-8**).

- B. Thankfulness for God's love will be seen by your love for others.
 - 1. Merely claiming to be thankful of God's love does not make it so. Does your *conduct* reflect the love of God? (**1 John 4:7-11**).
 - 2. Those who know God, *know how to love as God loves* - to love the seemingly unlovable and the undeserving.
 - 3. God loved us *not* because we loved Him first, but because that is who God is; those who abide in His love are able to *truly* love others (**v. 16**).

I. Loving others like the Father Loves Us.

- A. We are commanded to love those who least deserve our love – our enemies! (**Mat. 5:43-44**).
- B. Loving the “undeserving” identifies us as God's children (**Mat. 5:45**).
- C. We will be set apart from those who love only their friends (**Mat. 5:46-47**).
- D. Loving enemies as God does perfects or completes our love (**Mat. 5:48; cf. Eph. 5:1-2**).

II. Only until we come to Appreciate God's Love for Us Will We Truly Love Others.

- A. Do understand just how *amazing* God's love is? (**Rom. 5:6-11**).
 - 1. Such a rare event for one to die for another, yet perhaps for someone we esteem as “good” we would lay down our life for that person.
 - 2. While we were *still* sinners – disobedient, rebellious people who did not deserve God's love, God sent His Son to die for us! (**Rom. 5:8**).

- B. The greatest reminder for us on what true love is about is the cross of Christ (**1 John 3:16**).
 - 1. It is not a question on whether those we love deserve it, but a question of whether we truly understand and appreciate the love God has for us.
 - 2. The love of God demonstrated by the cross of His Son should be all the motivation we need to love others, especially when it is difficult to do so.

III. By Keeping God's Love in Our Hearts, We Will Be Able to Love the "Undeserving."

A. We will be able to love our spouses no matter what.

1. Love in marriage is not to be dependent on our feelings or whether the husband or wife "deserves" to be loved or appreciates our love.
2. For marriage to endure and stand through the test of time, the husband and wife must choose to love each other whether it is "deserved" or not! (**Eph. 5:25-29; Titus 2:4**).
3. Husbands do not have to *earn* their love from their wives and wives do not have to *earn* their love from their husbands.

B. We will love our children no matter what.

1. How many parents stop loving their children, deciding that they don't deserve it!?!
2. Even if our children became "lost" we would still continue to love them and long for their return (**Luke 15:11-32**).
3. Day after day, parents choose to love their children, whether they are thankful or not, obedient or not, responsible or not.

C. We will love our neighbor, no matter who that neighbor is.

1. There is a temptation to stereotype certain races or classes of people, dismissing them as being "unworthy" to be loved (**Luke 10:25-37**).
2. Who we love must not be determined by how much we may be loved in return; who is the better friend to us and who is not (**Luke 6:31-34**).

D. We will love even our enemies or those who have hurt us.

1. Of all people, it will be our enemies that will not appreciate our love and kindness, yet we are to love them anyway (**Luke 6:35-36**).
2. Like God Himself who loved us while we were His enemies, we are to do good to our enemies and expect no repayment (**cf. Rom. 5:10**).

Conclusion: Remember Everyday the Great Love God Has for You and You Will Be Able to Love Others, Even the "Undeserving" Just as God Has Loved You!