Digging Deeper

"I Am Loved Unconditionally!"

John 3.16; Romans 5.8; 8.38-39; 1 Corinthians 13.4-7; 1 John 4.9-10, 19

Love. We crave it, nurture it, abuse it, refuse it, and confuse it. It 'makes the world go 'round.' It's 'a many-splendored thing.' But all our natural loves are *at their best* a faint reflection of God's love. At the heart of His love for us is *unconditionality*. This is the very essence of grace!

• God's Love for You Is Personal: He loves *You!*His love for the world includes everyone – John 3.16

He loved you before you even knew Him – Rom. 5.8

• God's Love Is Infinite and Unfailing: It never fails! God's love is beyond our capacity to comprehend – Eph. 3.19a

Nothing can stop God loving you, not even you! - Rom. 8.35-39

• God Loves You Just as You Are (but won't leave you that way!) God loves His disobedient children – Luke 15.11ff (Prodigal Son)

God loves me enough to discipline me – Prov. 3.12

"Lord, thank you for loving me unconditionally, even when I falter! Teach me how to love you and others more like you love me."



New Braunfels Bible Church

August 27, 2023

- 1. The most popular topic in songs is love. Romance novels sell by the millions. We crave love, but as C. S. Lewis wrote, human loves can be "glorious images of Divine love...but no more." They might help us grasp a sliver of what God's love is, and other times hinder us in that pursuit. However, it is a worthy exercise on this side of heaven to capture glimpses of God's love in human expressions. What does "unconditional love" make you think of in your life experience?
- 2. In this series entitled "The Christian's Self-Identity," or "Who I Am in Christ," we have focused on many biblical truths: I am *Really* Alive in Christ! I am God's Inheritance! I have a Purpose in Life! I am Complete in Christ! I have been Declared "Righteous"! I am a Member of God's Forever Family! I am Free! I am a Servant. I am a Friend. I am a Soldier, and I am an Overwhelming Conqueror! I am a Child of the King! As you rehearse these aspects of our identity in Christ, which impact you the most? What dills you with wonder?
- 3. The areas we've covered don't begin to exhaust the who we are as new creations in Christ. Here are more for you to reflect on (and there are *many more!*):
 - I have been sealed in Christ by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1.13)
 - I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8.1-2)
 - My body is a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6.19)
 - I am seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2.6)
 - I can do all things through Christ (Phil. 4.13)
 - I can approach God's throne with confidence (Heb. 4.16)
 - God in me is greater than Satan in the world (1 John 4.4)
 - I am born of God; Satan can't touch me! (1 John 5.18)
 - I've been redeemed and forgiven! (Col. 1.14)
 - Nothing can separate me from God's love (Rom. 8.35-39)
 - I have a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1.7)
 - My citizenship is already in heaven! (Phil. 3.20)
 - I am a "branch" of the "true vine," Jesus (John 15.1, 5)
 - I am *individually* a member of Christ's body (1 Cor. 12.27)
 - I know I have eternal life! (1 John 5.11-13)