

... the Lord delights in those who
fear him, who put their **hope**
in his unfailing **love**.
Psalm 147:11

What is Love?

"(v.35) Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing,
(v.36) not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:
'They kill us in cold blood because they hate you,
We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.'
(v.37) None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. (v.38) I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow,
(v.39) high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us."

Romans 8:35-39 **The Message**

Love is not **simple** or **easy** for us.

"Annie held her (daughter) more tightly and stroked her hair and told her this (whoever's going to want me with one leg?) wasn't so. And she thought, but didn't say, what a perilous commodity love was and that the proper calibration of its giving and taking was too precise by far for mere humans." The Horse Whisperer by: Nicholas Evans (p.296)

Love for us can be:

- sloppy
- sentimental
- selective
- stubborn
- stupid
- selfish
- scary

God's Love is **unconditional** commitment!

"**Nothing** can drive a wedge between you and God." (v.35)

Love is **expensive**!

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were brought at a price.

Therefore honor God with your body"

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Love is extravagant ! "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he (she) is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God!"
II Corinthians 5:17

Love is electrifying ! "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."
Romans 8:1-2

Love is expansive ! "Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'
John 20:19b-21

Christmas is not exclusive!
Christ came to make the Kingdom of God inclusive.
"Jesus said:
'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'
John 3:16

Have you made Christmas your experience of love from God?
Is the peace of Christ alive and well in your life as we begin celebrating God's great love in Christ?

Come pray with me.
Bob

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