

TOPIC : THE LOVE OF FATHER-GOD BE WITH YOU ALL

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Speaker : SP Daniel Foo

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and **the love of God** and the communion of the Holy Spirit **be with you all**. Amen (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

How many of you from time to time, have heard your dad or mum say to you "I love you"?

Sadly, coming from an Asian culture, many of us don't hear this from our parents. As such, we may have a wrong impression or understanding of God as our Father.

Story #1

Wrong image of God as a policeman holding a truncheon, waiting to beat us up at the slightest wrong doing.

Story #2

We live our lives like running on a performance treadmill as though we need to perform well in order for God to love us.

Story #3

When we have bad experiences such as trauma, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, iron-fisted discipline, etc.

Bad and negative earthly experiences lead to wrong ideas and wrong beliefs about God. Demonic strongholds as mentioned in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, are mindsets, obstacles and hindrances that stifle and block our spiritual life and growth.

GOD IS LOVE

Father-God is Love (1 John 4:16).

1. There are 7 characteristics of His Love (Exodus 34:6-7a).
 - A. Merciful
 - B. Gracious
 - C. Longsuffering - slow to anger
 - D. Abounding in Goodness
 - E. Abounding in Truth
 - F. Faithful - Keeping Mercy
 - G. Forgiving

- 2A. His Love is consistent with His two other key attributes of being Just and Righteous (Psalm 97:2).
- 2B. Grace is on the side of Truth, ie His Love does not condone sins and violation of His laws (John 1:17).
- 2C. He cannot be loving and unjust and unrighteous (Jeremiah 9:24).
- 2D. There are consequences like curses, when we violate the laws of God (Romans 6:23 and Exodus 34:7b).

Wages of sin = Consequences of:

- Not obeying the Lord
- Habitual sinning
- Grieving the Holy Spirit
- Foolish decisions
- Bad company
- Not heeding godly counsel
- Merely spectator
- Quenching the Holy Spirit
- Not wanting to study
- Blaspheming the Holy Spirit
- Merely hearing and not applying the Word

- 2E. God in His Love for us in Christ, has redeemed us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13-14).

- i. God Himself does not curse man.
- ii. He gave man laws and principles of life.
- iii. We obey and flow with them for our well-being and prosperity.
- iv. We disobey and violate them to our loss and destruction.

- 3A. In His love, he trains and corrects his children (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- 3B. He trains and corrects primarily through the Word of Life (2 Timothy 3:16).
- 3C. The consequences of disobedience comes from the Laws and Principles of Life.
 - e.g. 1 - Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.
 - e.g. 2 - Genesis 31:38-41 - Every Jacob will find his own Laban.
 - e.g. 3 - Proverbs 29:1 - Destruction and loss to the un-teachable.
- 4A. He desires for each of us to first experience His love, i.e. connect with Him as the source of Love (1 John 4:10).
- 4B. As we experience His love, He desires for each of us to have a conviction of His enduring love for us (1 John 4:16).

- 4C. We can only love Him because He first loved us (1John 4:19).
- 4D. In His love, He gives good and perfect gifts (James 1:17; Romans 3:23; John 16:33 and Luke 11:11-13).
- 4E. His love reaches out to us continually until our last breath (Romans 2:4).

e.g. 1 - 2 Chronicles 33 - King Manasseh

- Did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Rebuilt the high places.
- Erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles.
- Bowed down and worshipped the starry hosts.
- Sacrifice his sons in the fire.
- Practised sorcery, divination and witchcraft.
- Consulted mediums and spiritists.
- Did much evil.
- Did more evil than the nations.
- In his distress, he sought the favour of the Lord and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.
- And when he prayed, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea, so brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.

e.g. 2 - Luke 15 - Parable of the Prodigal sons.

- When he came to his senses and while he was still a long way off,
- His father saw him.
- Ran to his son.
- Threw his arms around him and kissed him.

- 5A. The love of God is unconditional only in the sense that He continually reaches out to every person on earth to be reconciled to him (Romans 5:6 and 8).
- 5B. The love of God is abounding to man, for man to respond during the days of his life on earth up to his last breath (Psalm 103:8).
- 5C. The love of God is conditional in the sense that for man to experience His love, man must call on the Lord (Romans 10:13).
- 5D. To call on the Lord is:
- i. To repent.
 - ii. To humble ourselves.
 - iii. To acknowledge God.
 - iv. To seek Him.

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 3:17-20

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

End.

Questions for Discussion

1. Share your current journey of experiencing the Father-God's love.
 - 2a. What are the obstacles / hindrances to your experiencing the Father-God's love?
 - 2b. How can you take steps to overcome these obstacles / hindrances?
3. What are the lessons you have gathered from the sermon and what are some of the applications you can draw from it?