



*Love Child*

Simon Doory

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### **What is a love child? Humanly speaking**

Usually a love child is known as any child born of people's passions that are not married or in a permanent relationship. This child is often not wanted by one or both of the parents. This idea of following our passions is; if you want love, you have to make it happen for yourself anyway you can.

Human wisdom says that people tend to know what they think, feel, and want. They are supposed to be mindful of whom they are and act on this knowledge, rather than on what others want for them.

Unfortunately, choosing to put self first is used as the justification for having an abortion and killing an innocent child. This is called free choice; it says a woman can use her body the way she desires, as opposed to taking responsibility for the life of the baby she took

part in creating, a child who will be killed in the name of her self interest.

Because of the way God has made us, everyone seeks to be loved. But the reality in the world is that love is elusive. Everyone wants to be loved, but at the same time they are unable to provide the love for others they desperately seek for themselves.

This is clear by the staggering evidence of divorce and domestic violence. We also see an increase in violent crime around the world, and there is also an enormous addiction to alcohol and drugs. We also see an unending series of wars and mortal conflict between nations, and within nations. It is impossible that these people, in the middle of their confusion, know what love really is?

Obviously there is confusion as to exactly what love actually is, if we ask 50 different people what love is, we will probably get 50 different answers. Most of the answers will be along the lines that love is something we

experience that makes us feel good. Some even think they love others because they have consideration for them, but their consideration often doesn't result in any meaningful actions that seek to work towards the other persons greatest good before God.

The self centred child of the world knows what it wants; and it wants it now, and how it wants it. This demanding insistence is evident everywhere in every aspect of life.

We can find this attitude in how we want others to treat us as we pursue what we want, and punish them for failing to deliver or getting in our way. We see this ugly self in the way people treat each other with intolerance; we see it on our roads through road rage.

Sooner or later we may come to the conclusion that mankind is naturally unable to love unconditionally. On the surface there are often the promises to love, but turn out to be only flights of fancy. Underneath the offer lurks the reef of self centred destruction

waiting to tear the heart out of the unsuspecting relationship.

On the surface we see hopes based on wishful thinking, underneath lie the brokenness of humanities confusion. On the surface the pretence of mature ability, but underneath the hidden negative conditions coming from childhood fears and unsatisfiable needs.

The proof of self centred life's inability to love satisfactorily is the anger and bitterness that comes when our wants aren't met. This in itself tells us self interest doesn't work.

We need radical changes in our hearts if we are to love the way which is needed for real peace and happiness.

And since love is so important for all of us, and mostly unobtainable, we need to reconsider what love really is; maybe it would be wise to find out what God thinks love is.

## **What does God think about love?**

God is love, and a child of God is therefore a love Child in the image of God. That is, those who are born of God should have the characteristics of their Father's love, for God is love.

And we know from His word that God's love is not self centred, His love is poured out for the good of humanity. If His children obey Him because they love Him, they will be able to love as God loves; because they are born with the love of God.

Those He created, He created in His image and likeness so they could have an intimate relationship with Him. In His Fatherly loving concern for His people, God always seeks our highest good; and that means He desires all people would be like His divine Son, who was the Creating Word in the beginning with Him.

Therefore, since God is love, He actively works to give His love to us in order that many more would share His life in love.

## **Man lost the ability to love**

Unfortunately in the beginning man, that is Adam and Eve, disobeyed God, and denied God the love He deserved, and as a result all of mankind was then no longer able to love like God. Disobedience also had the effect of separating sinful man from the presence of a Holy loving God. Instead of being set apart for perfect fellowship with God, they lived for themselves and no longer loved God or lived for God their Father.

Since that time, everyone is born like sinful Adam, with Adam's spiritual DNA; that is without God's Spirit, without God's light, without God's love. They are separated from the love of God and now live in the darkness in the absence of true knowledge about God.

Rom 8:8 Rom 9:8 Eph 2:3

## **But God still works for His love in us**

God still loves all people because He made them in the beginning to be like Him. God wants all people to be made alive again with

Him as His loving children. He wants all of us to follow His plan for a life of love and peace through His beloved Son Jesus Christ; who came to die on a cross for our sin so we can live with Him in love. God's love is everlasting, so He continued to work for the restoration of man's life in the spirit and therefore His love. John 3:16

God's amazing sacrifice of His Son was done in love, in order to reinstate our life as His loving children. This sacrificial love means all people have the opportunity to receive His eternal life and live in His light, and live in His love and peace forever.

Therefore His Son's sacrifice offers us a godly life of love according to His image and likeness. (2 Pet 1:3-4) To have this life we must be willing to have nothing but His life. In order to have His life reborn in us, we must die to the old life which does not conform to His life. (Rom 6:4-6) Jesus said, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow*

*Me.*" (Luke 9:23) This self denial means death to self interest, which means we are able to be reborn by the Spirit according to the spiritual life of God who is love. But we cannot continue to hold onto the old unloving self and enjoy the new one of love.

Jesus tells us that in order to have the life of God's love we need a new life. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*" John 3:5-7

Since God is love, a person who is born again by God is a love Child. God's love is not self centred, so a love child of God always seeks the highest good of others as the Father does.

When men and women stop demanding their own way and submit to God, by surrendering their will to His will, there will be a real change of love in the heart. When we are

willing to surrender to God and obey Him and do what He wants, when He wants, and how He wants us to behave, we will receive the Holy Spirit, and the world will be a much better position to love as God commands.

This born again life in the image and likeness of God is revealed to us in the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ; for as He is we will be, if we seek first the Kingdom of God, and behave as He would. Jesus said: *"I am the way, the truth and the life; no one can come to the Father but through Me."* John 14:6

If we follow His way, we will think the way He thinks about us, and we will be conformed to His godly image of love and remain in His love. Therefore to know our real identity as children of God we need to look to Jesus who is our perfect example of a love child.

*'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died.'* 2 Cor 5:14

## **We are made alive in Christ's love**

This love of God is superior to all other loves that man preposes. *'Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.'* 1 Cor 13:4-8

This love of God is trustworthy, truthful, transparent, and thoughtful. It is considering, comforting, consoling, confiding, and communicating. This love is interested, involved, intent, and intimate. God's love is faithful, fair, favouring, and forgiving. This love of God is sincere, securing, sensitivity and sacrificing. His love is predictable, patient, passionate, and persevering. God's love is gracious, generous, guiding and gentle. It is open, observing and offering. Since this love is like God, it is encouraging, esteeming,

and enabling. His love is affectionate, admiring, and attentive. God's love is always respecting, reasoning, and restoring.

### **Jesus shows us the way of love**

*"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:13

Jesus didn't just do what He wanted; His love for God meant doing what God wanted. *"But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me."* John 14:31

The Lord Jesus shows us true love is not only obedient, but also willing to suffer for the good of others, even our enemies. *"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."* Matt 5:44

Jesus tells us that the way He stayed in the Father's love is the same way we remain in His love. *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His*

*love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."*

John 15:10-11

Jesus prayed to the Father that we would remain in His love and love one another. *"I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

John 17:23-24, 26

## **A love child produces the fruit of the Spirit's love**

*'It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.'* (John 6:63) *'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead*

*dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'*

Rom 8:11

The life He gives is His life, the life of God who is love; so the outworking of the character of His life is called the fruit of the Spirit. *'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.'*

Gal 5:22-23

Since all believers are to continue to grow up into Christ, they are to grow in love, but even then there is no suggestion of perfection being claimed according to the fruit of the Spirit's life in this life; but there should be solid evidence of the growing development of the Spirit's life of love in the individual who submits to God rule.

Also, God wants us to have His life according to His image; He wants us to treat others in the same way He treats us. For it is His will

that His image and likeness would be enjoyed by all people. Therefore the Lord tells us to obey Him. *"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."* (John 15:12) *"This I command you, that you love one another."* John 15:17

### **Therefore if we love Him we will obey Him**

Faith in Jesus Christ means turning from our old ways in order to live according to His word. It means we obey Him in all things because we love Him. And since God's children are born with God's love, we have His ability to love Him and others as He loves them.

Everything God calls us to do is based on the love of God in us. So we are able to begin to obey the two great commandments. "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.'" Matt 22:37-39

We can love like this because God first loved us. *'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19) *'The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.'* Rom 5:5

Jesus said He is the way the truth and the life. If we want to enjoy the benefits of His sacrifice on our behalf, we need to follow His way, and obey His truth. *So Jesus said. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35

*"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15) "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."* (John 14:21) *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."* John 14:23

*"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love." "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."*

John 15:9-10

Obedience to His commandments means being able to live in His light in order to enjoy the fullness of His love and abide in His peace. Remaining in His love means we seek to live according to His kingdom life more than any other way of thinking or living.

And just so we are not deceived, He tells us that obedience is the proof of our love. *"He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."*

John 14:24

## **The Christian life is built on love**

*'Let all that you do be done in love.'*  
(1 Cor 16:14) *'If I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to*

*be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.'*

1 Cor 13:3

We cannot live as we did before we gave our lives to Christ, so we are commanded to live according to the new life we have received from God; we are commanded to put on the New Self. *'You died. Now your life is hidden with Christ in God. Christ is your life. When he appears again, you also will appear with him in heaven's glory. So put to death anything that comes from sinful desires. Get rid of sexual sins and impure acts. Don't let your feelings get out of control. Remove from your life all evil desires. Stop always wanting more and more. You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient. Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. And over all these good things put on*

*love. Love holds them all together perfectly as if they were one.'* Col 3:3-5, 12-14

Is this not the correct way we should respond to our God, who by making us part of His family, blesses us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Eph 1:3

### **A prayer for God's people**

*'That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.'* Eph 3:14-19

*'Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.'* (Col 3:14) *'Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.'* 1 John 3:18

# Living Water Resources



Come to the river

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 13:34-35

Robert C May

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[cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au)