

*“[No] Created Thing, Will Be Able to Separate Us From the Love of God,
Which is in Christ Jesus Our Lord”*

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Have you ever considered the unconditional nature of God’s relationship to you? Unfortunately, such thinking is often beyond us. When we do seek to understand what it means, it often sits just beyond our reach and we tire of the effort. Yet, there are very few things (if any) that are as significant for us to understand and lay hold of.

Everything is conditional. Money back guarantees come with hidden strings and signed documents have fine print. We live in a world where conditions exist, from work, to marriage, from friendships to parenting. Such conditions affect how we understand who God is and because we work from the ground up instead of from the top down, our view of God is highly distorted.

Yet our text assures us that we are the objects of HIS LOVE, and it is this love that is unconditional. We must not allow our fickle nature to taint how we are to view His love for us. Our emotions deceive us, and we ride a rollercoaster of feelings ranging from intense lust and passion to shallow indifference. If we fail to understand the nature of His love for us and why He loves us so ardently, we will harm the character of our earthly relationships. Such defining relationships as friendships, family, marriage, and parenting will become bondage forming instead of freedom producing. Instead of obedience out of love, conformity to standards will be exacted by the cruel power of guilt and promised rejection. Perhaps you soften such strong statements in your relationships, but they are true nonetheless.

It is His unconditional love for us that guarantees a freedom from doubt, debt, accusation, condemnation, and separation. The greatest tragedy is that we fail to live in light of such liberty. To deny this freedom is to undermine the very nature of His cross work. He became man in order that He might bring a freedom to His people from doubt, debt, accusation, condemnation, and separation. All of the bondage mankind experiences, and more, are man’s rightful due. He deserves to live and die in fear. He deserves to always work and never rest in order to cancel what can never be paid. He is rightly blame-filled. He deserves the lashes of judgment against his bare back. And no matter how long or how many stripes he receives, it is never enough. He deserves to be separated from the presence of God forever. All this he deserves, but God . . . God spared not His own Son, but freely gave Him up for us all.

There was absolutely nothing you or I did to merit His love. The only way in which He could love us is through the merit of His Son’s death. He sent His Son, His only Son, to die in place of those who stood in open rebellion against this love. We hated Him. For once, we must feel the weight of this hatred, our hatred, toward God’s love. You and I were unlovely, but God loved us just the same.

Continued on the other side...

Stuart Townsend captures the power of this idea in his song, "How Deep the Father's Love." Read carefully the following lyrics and especially note stanza two.

How Deep The Father's Love, by Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That he should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
the Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to Glory

Behold the Man upon the cross
My sin upon His shoulders
**Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers**
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath had brought me life
I know that it is finished [emphasis added]

This is who I am apart from Christ. The Holy Spirit describes for me my miserable estate in Romans 5:6-10. It equally establishes my shameful existence in Romans 1-3. Yet, not only despite this existing condition, but rather because of this existing condition, He loves me. Because of who I am and because of who He is, this love for me from Him must be unconditional. Do you not now see? There is nothing you can do to merit any blessing or favor from God. You brought nothing to the equation. The transaction between God and man must be by grace alone in Christ alone or all is lost.

It is a mockery of the highest order that you would even think that somehow your actions are repaying God for services rendered. How foolish. Until you see yourself for what you are apart from Him and see the nature of what He did and why it was done, you will never be able to rest in His cross. In addition, all of your relationships will be governed by fear, guilt, and bondage instead of love, purity, and freedom.

Although God's love for His people is unconditional, there was a basis for God's love being unconditional and that was the sending and sacrificing of His only begotten Son. It is equally true that I must accept this by faith or I will not enjoy it. Take some time and step back to meditate on the unconditional nature of God's love for you. Think about this, and as you think, consider how your understanding or misunderstanding of this idea has impacted all of your relationships both horizontally and vertically. Friend, there is a world that is unseen which paints for us a profusion of color on the canvas of life that is absolutely breathtaking and it is a picture of God's unconditional love for His people. May the Holy Spirit open your eyes to it so that you might truly enjoy Him.