

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

God Loves You

Acts 17:28 *For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also His offspring.*

When you read or hear someone say that God loves you, what do you really feel? What goes through your heart and mind? Do you receive it with the revelation that God intends? God loves you, is true regardless of whether we receive the revelation or not. Yes God loves YOU, just the way you are. Every person in the world wants to be loved. It is universal and common to every human being. The devil does not want you to know that God loves you. He has deceived so many people into thinking that God could not possibly love them. He will have you look in the mirror at flaws, both naturally and inside your character. He will have you focus on mistakes that you have made and be totally oblivious to the truth of what God says. God loves us.

When we examine the text the question may be raised, what does this text have to do with love? The answer is everything. We are God's offspring. The word offspring comes from the Greek word *genos*; it means kindred, family, stock, tribe, nation, the aggregate of many individuals of the same nature, kind and sort. I have 3 children and I love them unconditionally. I would gladly lay my life down for theirs and do whatever I have to do to provide for them and to take care of them. I realize that if an imperfect father feels this way about his offspring, how much more a perfect Father feels for His offspring. We are a "spring off" of Almighty God, we are taken from Him. A part of God was placed in us when He breathed the breath of life in man. This is why man can never die. His soul will spend an eternity in one of two places. He will be with God in Heaven or with the devil in hell. Since God can never die and because God is in us, neither can we.

Certainly a Perfect Father will take care of His children. Seeing that we have a Father in the heavens that has His eye on the sparrow, we should walk in confidence knowing that no weapon that is formed against us shall prosper. When this kind of truth is known and accepted it makes our Christian journey much more tolerable.

God's love for us is clearly seen in the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11 In the story Jesus gives us exactly how God views His offspring. The children in this story were raised according to righteousness and had a very wealthy father. The children had no needs that were not provided for by the father. The time came when one son chose to exercise his free will and demanded his inheritance to go out and have good time. The Father let his son go, despite knowing exactly what the outcome was going to be. He knew the kind of people he would encounter in the streets. The Father never stopped loving his son despite the son's shortcomings. The story illustrates God's love for His children. When the son repented and came home the father did not remind him of all the

mistakes that he had made. The father simply loved him and was glad that the son that was lost came home again. Many people do not understand the depth of the love that the Father has for us. If we did, we would not be so judgmental, critical and bitter toward people that Jesus died for who are also His offspring. Receive His love and let us all walk in it. Make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill