

God's Love

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39

The month of February is upon us. When you hear that, what do you think of? I would venture to guess one of your first thoughts is Valentine's Day. So that of course brings up the whole topic of "LOVE." Images in your mind immediately include cards, flowers, candy, dinners out, and countless others. (OK guys, a gentle reminder.☺)

Let's talk about love, but let's shift it away from the secular perspective and put it in the context of our spiritual life. Looking at the Bible, did you know the word "love" appears 310 times in the King James Bible, 348 times in the New American Standard Bible, 551 times in the New International Version and 538 times in the New Revised Standard Version.

Love is found throughout scripture and is at the center of our faith. Love is the essence of what our God is. As you read the Bible from cover to cover, the theme is clear – *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."* John 3:16. The practical life application is there for us too, *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.Dear Children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."* 1 John 3:16, 18

Let me remind you, it says "God so loved the world." That means YOU, ME and EVERYONE! STOP! Soak that in. Every day we go about our routines, interacting with spouses, family, friends, co-workers, children.... Likewise, every day we find circumstances that seem to "chip away" and distract us from this joyful truth!! The God who created this world and everything in it, loves us – loves YOU. And what is so amazing, He loves you no matter what. There is nothing you need to do for that love! It is unconditional. STOP and think about that! "Nothing" can separate us from the love of God." The empty tomb is our constant reminder, and not just words either.

I invite you this month and every month, to joyfully live in God's love. When you are having that terrible day, GOD LOVES YOU! When you are having that amazing day, GOD LOVES YOU! When you get the bad news, GOD LOVES YOU! When you can't express what is on your mind in fear of _____, GOD LOVES YOU!

Don't just stop with absorbing this life changing truth, share it with those around you! Not just in words, but in actions. How will others know of this amazing love God has unless we live it ourselves!

Randy Einem, St. John's, Orange, CA