



Title: The revelation of love

Pastor: Heinrich Titus

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Whose words are we embracing?

“Recently I was driving through Los Angeles, and suddenly I had the strange sensation of driving through a huge dictionary. Wherever I looked there were words trying to take my eyes from the road. They said, ‘Use me, take me, buy me, drink me, smell me, touch me, kiss me, sleep with me.’ In such a world who can maintain respect for words?”

Henry Nouwen as quoted in So, you want to be like Christ? Charles R. Swindoll.

God’s Love is a giving love

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Love starts with God

Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that *while we were sinners*, Christ died for us.”

“Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are.” Philip Yancey

God’s love starts with God

God’s love is always giving and active.

God’s love brings life.

God’s love empowers and protects.

It is never too late for us to return

Revelation 2:1- (ESV) ¹To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. ²'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Love starts with God - a lesson from Hosea

Hosea 2:14-23 (MSG) “And now, here’s what I’m going to do: I’m going to start all over again. I’m taking her back out into the wilderness where we had our first date, and I’ll court her. I’ll give her bouquets of roses. I’ll turn Heartbreak Valley into Acres of Hope. “And now, here’s what I’m going to do: I’m going to start all over again. I’m taking her back out into the wilderness where we had our first date, and I’ll court her. I’ll give her bouquets of roses. I’ll turn Heartbreak Valley into Acres of Hope. “She’ll respond like she did as a young girl, those days when she was fresh out of Egypt. “At that time”—this is God’s Message still— “you’ll address me, ‘Dear husband!’ Never again will you address me, ‘My slave-master!’ “I’ll wash your mouth out with soap, get rid of all the dirty false-god names, not so much as a whisper of those names again. “At the same time I’ll make a peace treaty between you and wild animals and birds and reptiles, And get rid of all weapons of war. Think of it! Safe from beasts and bullies! “And then I’ll marry you for good—forever! I’ll marry you true and proper, in love and tenderness. Yes, I’ll marry you and neither leave you nor let you go. “And then I’ll marry you for good—forever! I’ll marry you true and proper, in love and tenderness. Yes, I’ll marry you and neither leave you nor let you go. “You’ll know me, God, for who I really am. “On the very same day, I’ll answer”—this is God’s Message— “I’ll answer the sky, sky will answer earth, Earth will answer grain and wine and olive oil, and they’ll all answer Jezreel. “I’ll plant her in the good earth. I’ll have mercy on No-Mercy. I’ll say to Nobody, ‘You’re my dear Somebody,’ and he’ll say ‘You’re my God!’”

Do you know how much He loves you?

1 John 4:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

Fear focusses on the self: past, present and future. Failures, shame, rejection, separation, conflict, etc.

Love focusses outward, towards God. His faithfulness, His love, His Presence.

The Holy Spirit breaks fear

Romans 8:14-15 (ESV) ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Never alone, Martin by Jason Upton

Sometimes we feel so afraid
Sometimes we feel so lonely
Sometimes we feel confused
Sometimes we feel so helpless
And we don't know what to do

(It's) so hard to believe it
If we never heard it
The voice of our father said our name
You're not alone
You're not alone
I'll never leave you
I'll never leave you (2x)
Oh, Lord...
Sometimes
We're sitting in the middle of the dark at night
Sitting on the piano playing right on
Sometime just sing till the seal come
Sing it oh...
I'm not alone
You never leave me
You never leave me (4x)
Oh Lord...

Martin Luther King

One night was sitting at his kitchen table all by himself
His family had already gone to bed
And all of a sudden he receives this phone call
And this man said:
"Martin if you don't stop preaching what you're preaching
We're gonna take the life of your family and we're gonna take your life
We're gonna kill you."
And after he hung up the phone
He said at that table
And he begin just to say:
"Father, I grew up in the church
I've preached your kingdom in justice all over the earth
I've preached your kingdom in justice all over America
And I know you're real.
But right now I'm so afraid and I don't think I've ever hurt You
Say my name
And I'm here to hear your voice father I need you to say my name"
Never alone Martin
Never alone Martin
I'll never leave you (3x)
I'll never leave you
No..

Next steps

- Download YouVersion Bible App
- Select the 14-day reading plan: Unlimited love

- Ask Holy Spirit to give you greater revelation of God's Love

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