

December 22, 2021

## The Incredible Result of God's Unconditional Love

### [Titus 3:4-7](#)

*<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water<sup>[a]</sup> of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

During this Advent season, when we focus on the birth of Jesus we need to be especially thankful that God reached out to reveal to us more about the depth and breadth of that love. Jesus introduced us to a new image of God as a loving father who desires, more than anything, to have a close personal relationship with each of His children.

According to William Barclay, "Jesus came to tell them [His children] not of the justice that would pursue them forever, but of the love which would never let them go, ...When Christ enters a man's life for the first time, he really begins to live."

God's unconditional love for us is clearly demonstrated in the story of the Prodigal Son. The father's love is so strong that when he sees his son returning home from his carousing adventure, he runs to greet him and expresses boundless joy.

There are no conditions, just abundant love and grace. It is our awareness of this incredible revelation of God's unconditional love that sets us free. Free from the fear of God; free to approach God; free to enter into an intimate personal relationship with God; and free *to enjoy Him forever*, as the Westminster Shorter Catechism states.

To fully experience God's abundant love and grace simply must accept it, as a gift. Accepting this gift means we open the door to our heart and let the Holy Spirit enter. I find that there are doors in my heart to be opened, that I am not yet even aware are closed. Max Lucado expresses this idea quite well in the title of his book "*God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be... JUST LIKE JESUS.*"

Jesus also encourages us to live for others with an attitude of service. Why does he say this? Numerous times, he says that this is the path to finding real life. "Do this and you will live."

**Prayer:** *God, we know that you desire the same abiding intimacy with each of us that you had with Jesus. You wait patiently for us to allow you into our hearts more fully and more completely. Show us through the Holy Spirit how we can keep the door open and open more compartments for it is in this way that we find eternal life. We pray in the strong name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, who came to teach us how to love. Amen.*

*(Prayer Adapted from an Unknown Author)*

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