
Compelled By Love

Part 2 - A Love Encounter

A Love Story

Most people like a good love story.

Last week we talked about the fact that God, from the beginning of the creation, designed us to be in a love relationship with Him. We have effectively stepped into the greatest love story of all time – God’s love for the whole world. (John 3:16)

God’s love is a love so strong that it pursues us, paid the ultimate price for us and sacrificed to live for us in a way like no-one has ever done. God’s pursuing love is ultimately expressed in Jesus!

God has chosen us to go on His mission. Being on God’s mission is the greatest privilege we are ever given. (2 Peter 3:9)

The next chapter to God’s love for the world is going to be co-authored with you!

God desires that we love Him with all we are – Mark 12:30-31

Created for a Love Relationship

God Himself pursues a love relationship with you. He is the one who takes the initiative to bring you into this kind of relationship. (1 John 4:19)

He created you for a love relationship with Himself. That is the very reason you were created; it is the ultimate purpose of your life and should and can be very real and personal to you.

Do you know the love of the Father? Have you experienced the liberating, faithful love of God? Are you able to say that you love God with all your heart?

God designed us to be thrilled by Him and to enjoy Him.

He is an Ever-Loving Father – *He abounds in love and faithfulness (Exodus 34:6)*

His love is limitless. The word 'abounding' is used to describe what is present in abundant quantity and quality.

Ever Loyal Father – *His love is loyal*

The phrase, "love and faithfulness" gives us the picture of our Father's loyal love. A "covenantal love" – God established His covenant of love with Israel, promising His loyalty to His people and calling for their loyalty in return.

We honour God not just by commitment but by passion, desire and love!

Our heavenly Dad's 'loyal-love' is an undeserved, selective affection by which He binds Himself to His people for their sake. He graciously and sovereignly grants gifts and blessings beyond anything we might hope for. He grants these blessings contrary to what we deserve. His abounding love will never diminish or be exhausted since it is founded on His character and covenant commitment. (Psalm 136:1)

Ever Faithful Father – *His love is faithful and true*

God is both true and faithful. Reliability, stability and faithfulness are fundamental to love when applied to God. Because He is reliable and

faithful, His words can be trusted. God's Word is as sure as His character. Jesus affirmed this when He said, "Your Word is truth". (John 17:17)

Love should come naturally to us. We were created by God to love and to be loved. But because we were born into a sinful world, and because our sinful nature was bent toward believing the worst about God—rather than choosing to know Him as the loving Father that He is—we find that accepting His love and giving it away to others is a struggle. Our minds need to be renewed by the Holy Spirit. (1 John 4:16)

- + Are you comfortable with love?
- + Are you continually filled with the understanding of how much the Father loves you?
- + Are you aware that the Father takes delight in you and that He thinks about you all the time? (Zephaniah 3:17)
- + Do you realise that He feels nothing but perfect love when He thinks about you?

When you know of this love it's then that you become compelled to share it. Why would you keep it a secret? (2 Corinthians 5:15)

Love = a missional heart - No strings attached

We act because we have experienced God's love and want to share God's love. We want others to experience that same feeling of being loved!

Love should be the motivator and means by which we minister to everyone. From praying for the sick through to sharing the Good News with those on the street, regardless of what happens, they should feel loved (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). We must never see people as projects or any of our good works or ministry to others as jobs to do.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on the statement: "When I love God - I am ruined for the world - little else matters." Does this reflect your true heart for God? If not, what's getting in the way?
2. In reflection upon God's love for you, how does that challenge you to love others? Share why it is hard to love others. How have you seen God grow you in your capacity to love one another?
3. Sometimes we can go about the acts of our faith (good works, sharing the Good News of Jesus, serving the poor), but without love. What do you think the impact is on those who we have served? Is it fair to say that unless people have been loved as we minister, they really haven't been touched by God if God is love?
4. What difference did God's love make in your life? That's at least one area that you can authentically minister from to others. Ask God to show you areas of your life where love needs to be the first thing people see.
5. Wait on the Lord and ask Him to reveal to you, ways in which His love could be displayed through you. Specifically bring to Him in prayer the people who you find difficult to show love towards.
6. Pray and lay hands on each person to receive afresh the transforming love of God.