

Life on Life

Women's Bible Study

Learn the Word, Live the Word, And Love Each Other.

Tuesdays @ 9:30 am • Education Center Youth Room A

You Are Loved

February 2020



Guess What? God Loves You

By Ardina Colby

In just a few weeks, many will celebrate Valentine's Day. There will be chocolates, balloons, possibly a Peanuts television special and paper hearts everywhere. The word "Love" will be used A LOT. Flowers will be marked up to ridiculous prices. Groups of procrastinating boyfriends and husbands will stand around the greeting card section of CVS at 10pm on February 13 looking dazed and confused. There'll be a million television and radio ads selling diamonds. It'll be pretty easy to get swept up in the whole thing. Let's remember, however, that God's love for His children and the way the world defines love are not one and the same. The bible tells us in Jeremiah 31:3 that God loves us with an everlasting love. An everlasting love is a love that last forever. Forever. Like Forever ever. Like way past Valentine's Day. It's literally never going to end.

Guess what? Your Father in heaven loves YOU. He loves you individually. You're probably nodding and saying "yes, yes I know." Well of course, I know that you know God loves you, but it simply can't be stressed and articulated enough. Your Father in heaven loves you. The GOD of the entire universe. The creator of heaven and earth. Jesus' Daddy!!!! The God of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac He. Loves. You. (*and yes, I know that He loves me tooHe loves us all, but let's just focus on you for a minute.*) He loves you in ways that can't even be fully understood and/or communicated until you get to heaven. When you stop and really think about that for a minute, it's a bit overwhelming, right? It's His great love that, even when we were underserving, was showered down on us at the cross. If you're not fully convinced kindly turn your bible to the third chapter of the book of John.

Coming Up in LOL...

- **2/4** Facilitators Meeting
TODAY
- **2/11** Valentines Day
Party & BYOL Potluck
- **2/18** Black History Month
Special Feature
- **2/25** Lunch & Learn
Conflict Resolution

Do everything in love.

-1 Corinthians 16:14



HAPPY
VALENTINES!!

The key verse there is 16 but go ahead and read the entire chapter because reading the bible is always a good thing. Always. When you actually think through the agonizing details of the crucifixion, you can't help but realize that only a loving Father would go through such suffering for His children. Yes, He did this for everyone collectively but He's a personal God so He actually did this for YOU. His love is amazing.

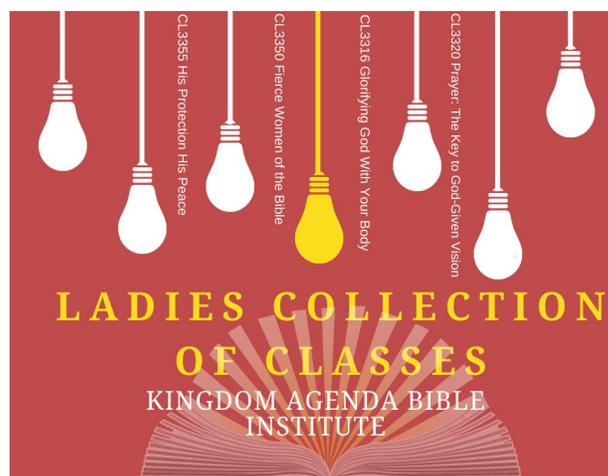
Have you ever found yourself wondering if God REALLY loves you? Do you wonder if He fully understands the hardships you're facing? Do you wonder if He's so busy blessing others that you and your concerns fell through the cracks? Do you think about your problems and heartaches and figure there's no way God can love you like He says He does and allow you to struggle so much? Do you think that maybe He DOES love you, but not as much as your friend who seems to be up to their neck in blessings and favor? Listen to me dear sister. There's no doubt that God loves Him some YOU. I really need you to trust me on this one. It's important to remember that God's love for us doesn't always look like love in the movies or in romance novels. We can't fully comprehend His love and how it plays out in space and time. 1 Corinthians 13:4 does shed some light though on God's love definition. We read that "love is patient and kind: love does not envy or boast: it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way: it is not irritable or resentful: it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth." That's the ESV version. Again . . . read it, write it down, hang it up and don't forget it. If you need some more reassurance (and there's NO SHAME in that.... we all need a little reassurance from time to time) make a visit to Romans 8:38-39. God in heaven adores YOU and there's not one thing that can change that. Not. One. Thing.

So maybe you're wondering WHY God loves you so. I mean, maybe you've made a few mistakes here and there. (Let's be honest. We've all made mistakes from time to time.) Maybe you feel like you don't even deserve GOD's great love. Maybe you feel like you've fallen short so many times that you only deserve a portion of the love God has to give. Listen. I'm going to share something with you, and I hope you never ever forget it. Ever. If you happen to already know this interesting bit of great truth, do me a favor and share it with as many people as you can. Here it goes. (Deep breath) Nobody DESERVES His love. Not one of us does. But He still gives it FREELY. Romans 3:23 basically says that we're all sinners and don't live up to GOD's perfect standard, but then verse 24 says that we're justified by His grace as a gift through Jesus Christ who acts as our redeemer. It's a gift, and He makes it available to all. That means that He makes it available to YOU. I paraphrased so be sure to read it for yourself. It's our faith in Jesus Christ as GOD's son and Lord of our lives that allows us to be able to receive this great gift.

I also want you to realize that if you're ever doubting GOD's love for you or the truth that He deeply cares about you, those thoughts are probably coming from the enemy, and we all know that he's a total liar. If you begin to doubt God's love for you, remind yourself by reading Ephesians 2:10.

Did you already know all of this? Did you just need a little reminder? Perhaps this information was brand spanking new to you, or maybe you're somewhere in-between. Either way, are you wondering what to do with this information now? Well, that's easy. Embrace it. Remember it. Remind yourself of it. Write a note to yourself about it and stick it on your mirror or windshield or both. And by all means, tell others about it. More people need to know that there's a GOD in heaven who loves us all more than we can comprehend. There are people who need to know that Jesus Christ loved us all the way to the cross. So, if you're gifting chocolates or paper hearts this Valentine's Day, be sure to include the gift of God's great love. It could be a word of encouragement. It could be helping someone with a project, a non-judgmental listening ear or just plain old sharing the gospel . . . that Jesus is Lord and He died to save us all. Let's all simply share the love of God.

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