

YOU ARE LOVED!

by E. Hardi Kubassek

There is good personal news for everyone, and it may come as a surprise to you, YES! YOU ARE LOVED!

So what's the big deal about being loved, you might say. The word love is used very freely, and often, what was supposed to be love only left you with more hurt and rejection to deal with. "Love" is probably the most misused and misunderstood word in our vocabulary. This word is broadly used to express everything from lustful self-gratification to true unconditional endearment. Whatever love means to you, read on and you will see that there is more to loving and being loved than most people realize.

Babies, who are born into an environment of affection with plenty of attention, hugs and kisses, grow quicker and are healthier than children who only have their physical needs met. Surveys show that what teens fear the most is that no one will love them.

Many young people are entering into sexual relations because they are afraid of rejection if they say no. As adults many compromises are made to be accepted and be part of the crowd.

The fact is that everyone has a very real need to be accepted and cared for. If you have been deeply hurt by past relationships your defense mechanism might tell you not to take the chance of getting hurt again. Have you tried relationship after relationship and concluded that there isn't any true love? Does anyone accept you as you are, and love you for who you are?

Perhaps, on the other hand, you are surrounded with friends while you are buying the drinks or giving of your means to others. Are you sure the people you think are your friends love you for the right reasons? Even the most sincere love and affection of those who are the nearest to us has its limitations. When problems arise and pressures get the best of us, what seemed to be a secure and loving relationship can become a civil war.

Marriages are failing at an ever increasing rate while many who no longer bother getting married live together as long as they feel they are in love. Human love is as unpredictable, conditional, limited, and as subject to change as human life itself. The world seems to be full of hurt and hurting people.

Somebody Does Love Unconditionally

There is a love far beyond our human limitations. To find true love we must look outside of ourselves. By our own experience we know how changeable we can be and how incapable we are to love in many circumstances.

There is someone whose very nature and essence is Divine Love.

Even if you don't know it, this love has already been extended to you personally. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, proved that He loves you and every other human being who ever lived on this planet. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8) Every person has committed offenses worthy of punishment in hell, but Jesus stepped forward and said I will pay the price so humanity can go free. There isn't any greater expression of love than if a person is willing to lay down his or her life for a friend. Jesus went a lot further than that when He died, in love, for the very ones who hated Him and nailed Him to a cross. The fact is that we are all guilty of His death until we receive His pardon.

Regardless of how good or bad we may consider ourselves, every one of us is condemned unless we are willing to accept God's loving forgiveness. "And we are being cleansed from every sin by the blood of Jesus His Son." (1 John 1:7)

Our Choice

We really do have a choice, and so did our original parents, Adam and Eve. Because of their choice to disobey God, sin and its consequence of death have been passed on to us. We are not responsible for the state and condition in which we were born, however we are accountable for what we do with the choice that we now have to make.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:16-18

Will He Accept Me?

"God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." (Acts 10:34-35) "If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:9-11)

In order to qualify for God's unconditional love, you must follow these very simple steps:

1. *Realize and confess that you are a sinner.*
2. *Believe that JESUS is the son of God, and that He died on a cross for you personally.*
3. *Repent (be truly sorry), and turn away from the sin in your life.*
4. *Confess (tell others) that you have accepted JESUS as your personal saviour.*
5. *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved;" (Mark 16:16)*

A Changed Life

This is your opportunity to have a changed life and to enjoy all the benefits God has provided for those who love Him. Just talk to God and tell Him how you are feeling. Ask Him to help you believe in Him and to forgive all your sins. Promise God that with His help, you will live the rest of your life for Him. Now you can thank God that He has heard your prayer, and that He will never leave you. God's Holy Spirit will come to dwell in you and will enable you to know, and do, what is right.

Once Christ Jesus is believed upon and accepted, we become born again. This birth is in the spiritual dimension and it means we are born into the family of God as His own children. As the children of God, we inherit the nature of God. It now becomes possible to love others, and God, even as He also loves us. We will find it a joy to do what is right, and look for opportunities to share our life-transforming experience. As we continue our walk with the LORD there are many experiences which will help us develop into a state of Christ-like maturity.

Most definitely, YOU ARE LOVED, and you BELONG! The family of God encompasses the globe, and by God's grace you are a very special member.

Following is the Bible's definition of the kind of love God has for His own, and as His children we are able to show Him and others.

“Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NEB