

“Where Love Is”

Series Introduction

July 14, 2023

I was inspired by my childhood and the thoughts of the many children who struggled with receiving loving affirmation from their parents. Today, the children of my youth are now parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents who may still have difficulty believing they are loved. Some of the broken promises of parents, relatives, and foster parents left deep wounds that hindered their progress in life, resulting in distrust, divorce, rejection, and bitterness.

The adversary... the devil, made it his mission to derail and thwart God's relationship with mankind. It was the perfect relationship of love and intimacy between God and those who bear His image and likeness. With our free will and the influence of the devil, mankind chose to neglect the love that we knew.

Whether we are many or few, our life stories share a common thread, transcending race, ethnicity, religion, or sex. We all carry the scars of living in a world that often feels condemned. From children of devoutly religious parents to those who have never professed faith in God, we have all grappled with shattered dreams and broken hearts. This shared experience, no matter where we have come from, unites us in our journey towards love and healing.

From the beginning, God's plan for humanity was to experience the transformative power of love. Life has no greater joy than knowing you are loved, accepted, and appreciated. And even in our moments of failure, God's forgiveness is always within reach, offering us a path to healing and growth. This potential for growth and healing through forgiveness is a beacon of hope in our journey toward Love... for God is Love!

John 3:16-18 NKJV *16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Let us build our case on that foundational Truth today! “Where Love Is”

Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-4 ESV **1** *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant*