



Does God love everyone - even if they don't believe in Him?

A great question from one of our young people.

God's love is something many people have the wrong idea about - the idea that we have to earn His love by doing and saying things that please Him (or by not doing things He's not happy with). But, the truth is that God loves us even when we are not 'loveable.'

The short answer to the question is a simple: Yes, He does!

There are a couple passages in the book of Romans that really make it clear that God's love is unconditional:

" Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:35, 37-39

...at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

In short, there is nothing - not disobedience or even our lack of trust in Him - that can cause Him to stop loving us. As we learned in Vacation Bible School there actually are things God can't do:

He can't lie. He can't do anything evil. And He can't stop loving us! Truth, Goodness, and Love are basic characteristics of God.

God's love is shown in the fact that He won't force us to do what He wants. He created us with the ability to choose to obey or disobey, to trust in Him or reject Him. When we choose to disobey His good rules, choose to not follow His good plans or choose to reject Him instead of trust in Him, He may be disappointed and deeply saddened, but He still loves us. And, until our final breath, He will continue showing us that "amazing love" in an effort to bring us to place our trust in Him and receive the gift of eternal life that He has for all who do believe in Him.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net