

God's greatest gift

Does God really love us no matter who we are or what we have done? Yes, he does, and the fact that he chooses to love us to that extent is by no means as “way out” as we might think. Surely our own love for one another is totally inadequate if it is conditional.

For example, if parental warmth, praise, and affection depend (are conditional) upon a child's good grades at school, imagine how starved of love a poor achiever will be.

Just suppose that God's love for us was conditional upon our performance. Since we well know our own inadequacies, how could we ever believe that he really loves us?

Through Jesus he tells us instead, “I will never refuse anyone who comes to me.” John 6.37 (Phillips Modern English). This shifts the emphasis away from our achieving and focuses on his loving.

God's love has never been on the basis that we have some worth that he can exploit. As the Bible says, true love “does not pursue selfish advantage.” 1 Corinthians 13.5 (Phillips Modern English).

As his love for us is without reserve, shouldn't our response be without reserve too?

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