

THE FATHER LOVES YOU

“One thing above all is important: the ‘return to the Father.’
The Son came into the world and died for us, rose and ascended to the Father; sent us His Spirit, that in Him and with Him we might return to the Father.

To seek anything, to be concerned with anything but this, is only madness and sickness, for this is the whole meaning and heart of all existence, and in this all the affairs of life, all the needs of the world and of men, take on their right significance: all point to this one great return to the Source.”

(Thomas Merton)

A. The Relationship of Love within the Trinity. (1 John 4:8, John 17:24)

“The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father and according to Augustine the bond of love between the Father and the Son is the Spirit.”

“The foundation of this furious longing of God is the Father who is the originating Lover, the Son who is the full expression of that Love, and the Spirit who is the original and inexhaustible activity of that Love, drawing the created universe into itself.”
(Brennan Manning)

B. The Revelation of the Father’s Love.

“Everything He said and did worked to fulfill that one assignment - reveal the Father. When I realized that simple point it changed everything. It created a context and more importantly a reason for every word and action of Jesus. The Father was to be made known to this planet of orphans.” (Bill Johnson)

1. The Father revealed his love in sending his Son to save us. (John 3:16 *agape*)
2. Jesus reveals the Father that we may become sons and daughters. (Luke 10:22)
3. Jesus revealed the Father through his words, works, and the way he received love in his human experience. (John 14:9)

C. The Reception of the Father’s Love in Jesus Life.

1. Declaration of *phileo* love (John 5:16-20)

16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. 17 In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” 18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

19 Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves (*phileo*) the Son and shows him all he does.

2. Demonstration of *phileo* love. (Mark 1:9-11)

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

“I believe that at some point in his human journey Jesus was seized by the power of a great affection and experienced the love of his Father in a way that burst all previous boundaries of understanding...Then it happens! Whatever the external manifestations were the baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan was an *awesome personal experience*. The heavens are split, the Spirit descends in the form of a dove and Jesus hears the words, ‘You are my Son, my Beloved, on you my favor rests.’ What an *earthquake* in the human soul of Jesus.” (Brennan Manning)

D. The Promise of the Father’s Love.

16 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (John 16:26-27)

“If the written word of the Bible could be changed into a spoken word and become one single voice this voice more powerful than the roaring of the sea would cry out: ‘The Father loves you!’ (John 16:27)” (Raineiro Cantalamessa)

E. Pentecost and the Father’s Love

On the day of Pentecost there is an outpouring of the Spirit’s power (Acts 1:8) and the Father’s Love. (Romans 5:5)

5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

F. The Spirit of Adoption

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

The Spirit brings us as adopted sons and daughters into the same Father’s love that Jesus the Son experienced at his baptism.

**“If in my Fathers’ love I share a filial part
Send down thy Spirit like a dove
To rest upon my heart.” (Charles Spurgeon)**

