

2/15/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Little Sarah spent the afternoon watching video of her parents' wedding, marveling at how beautiful Mommy looked in her dress and how young and handsome Daddy was too. Her mother smiled over her shoulder and said, "After all these years, your dad and I still love each other very much."

"Oh, I know," answered the precocious kindergartner, "You're married. You have to love each other."

The young girl had picked up on the vows spoken that day by her parents, promises to love and cherish each other forever without any conditions or excuses. In the covenant of marriage, a man and woman enter into a solemn agreement with each other that is not meant to be erased by conflicts, eroded over time, or dissolved even by mutual agreement. This is possible only when husband and wife understand that marital love is not exclusively an emotion but also a commitment to action. Their vows of marriage set the parameters for how their love for each other will be expressed: "To be faithful ... in sickness and in health ... as long as we both shall live."

Maybe some will think the little girl in this story to be naïve about how adult relationships work. But it is with that same childlike faith that the Lord God directs us to consider his relationship to those he loves. *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. Deuteronomy 7:9.* In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses reminded the Old Testament believers that the Lord was "their"

God, committed to them. Yes, the people had been disobedient and unfaithful to him, but God had made his solemn vows to their ancestor Abraham. He had entered into an agreement which was extended to every generation of believers since then. God promised to send a Savior who would be a blessing to people of every nation. In the sacrifice of this perfectly innocent Savior, Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness for all that we have done wrong. All our unfaithfulness and disobedience which brought us shame have been paid for by the death of God's own Son.

The passage of time and the weakness of our commitment to God cannot change his faithful love for us. Take a moment today to remember some of God's many promises and renew your commitment to respond to his love with a thankful love of your own.

Prayer: *Lord God, I marvel at your promise to love me despite my many weaknesses. Forgive my sins and let your love be reflected in all I do today. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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