



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Love Lifted You!

Scripture: 1 John 4:10 -Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Lifted in the Bible means to raise or elevate. This spiritual “lift,” is an expression of alignment with our innate and divine goodness, or our soul self, which thoughts and selfishness negates or distorts. When we say that God lifts us up from the earth, we are really saying that he takes us out of the limited philosophies that are prevalent in the world. He lifts us out of our narrow self-focused concerns and gives us a sense of His grandeur, His power, and His love. Moreover, He takes us out of sin, degradation, and everything unclean and into the righteousness, purity and holiness of God.

Love explains (1) why God creates—because He loves, He creates people to love; (2) why God cares—because He loves them, He cares for sinful people; (3) why we are free to choose—He wants a loving response from us; (4) why Christ died—His love for us caused Him to seek a solution to the problem of sin; and (5) why we receive eternal life—His love expresses itself to us forever.

The entire Gospel comes to focus in John 3:16. God’s love is not static or self-centered; it reaches out and draws others in. Here God sets the pattern of true love, the basis for all love relationships—when you love someone dearly, you are willing to give freely to the point of self-sacrifice. God paid dearly with the life of his Son, the highest price He could pay. Jesus accepted our punishment, paid the price for our sins, and then offered us the new life He had bought for us. When we share the Gospel with others, our love must be like Jesus’—willingly giving up our own comfort and security so that others might join us in receiving God’s love.

Nothing sinful or evil can exist in God’s presence. He is absolute goodness. He cannot overlook, condone, or excuse sin as if it never happened. He loves us, but His love does not make Him morally lax. If we trust in Jesus, however, we do not have to bear the penalty for our sins (1 Peter 2:24). We can be acquitted (Romans 5:18) by His atoning sacrifice.

Love is a choice and an action, as 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 shows. God is the source of our love: He loved us enough to sacrifice his Son for us. Jesus is our example of what it means to love; everything He did in life and death was supremely loving. The Holy Ghost gives us the power to love; He lives in our heart and makes us more and more like Him. His love always involves a choice and an action, and our love should be like His.

John said, “**God is love,**” not “**Love is God.**” Our world, with its shallow and selfish view of love, has turned these words around and contaminated our understanding of love. Our definition of love must come from God, who is holy, just, and perfect. At the same time, if we truly know God, we must learn to love as He does. God’s kind of love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. It is utterly unselfish. This kind of love goes against our natural inclinations. It is possible only if God helps us set aside our own desires and instincts, so that we can give love while expecting nothing in return. Thus, the closer we come to Christ, the more love we will show to others (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

These verses (Romans 8:35-39) contain the most comforting promises in all Scripture. Paul explains that it is impossible to be separated from Christ. His death for us is proof of the unconquerable love. Nothing can stop His constant presence with us. God tells us how great His love is so that we will feel totally secure in Him. If we believe these overwhelming assurances, we will not be afraid. “Principalities” and “powers” are unseen forces of evil in the universe, forces like Satan and His fallen angels (Ephesians 6:12). In Christ we are super-conquerors, and His love will protect us from any such forces.

God reaches toward His people with kindness motivated by deep and everlasting love. He is eager to do the best for them if they will only let Him. After many words of warning about sin, this reminder of God’s magnificent love is a breath of fresh air (Jeremiah 31:3). Rather than thinking of God with dread, look carefully and see Him lovingly drawing us toward himself. Whether we’re helpless victims of circumstances or struggling with the consequences of our own sin, God pursues us in love. In His mercy and grace, He draws us back to Him. If you’ve forgotten God, turn back to Him. Then, as He leads, continue to walk with Him each day. He’s always available to us in prayer, and He promises, “*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*” (Hebrews 13:5). **We can rest secure in His love.**