



FATHER'S DAY

The Power of Love and Acceptance
Cannot be Overstated!
July 2, 2023 – Part 2

1 John 3 ^{1a} See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! NLT

1 John 4 ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. NKJV

The power of love and acceptance cannot be overstated. Criticism, belittling, shaming or any other form of manipulation will never make them be what you want them to be. In fact, those who feel criticized, rejected usually dig their heels in and become more defensive and existent to change. It's a well-known fact that people are only motivated to change if they feel loved, appreciated, and accepted. (Exceptions would be abuse, violence, betrayal) **Acceptance Paradox:** To get people to change, you first have to accept them as they are, warts and all only then will they be able to consider the possibility of changing.

Romans 2 ⁴ Do the riches of his extraordinary kindness make you take him for granted and despise him? Haven't you experienced how kind and understanding he has been to you? Don't mistake his tolerance for acceptance. Do you realize that all the wealth of his extravagant kindness is meant to melt your heart and lead you into repentance? ⁵ But because of your calloused heart and refusal to change direction, you are piling up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed. TPT

Malachi 4 ⁵ "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. ⁶ His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse." NLT

Luke 1 ¹⁶ And he will persuade many in Israel to convert and turn back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will go before the Lord as a forerunner, with the same power and anointing as Elijah the prophet. He will be instrumental in turning the hearts of the fathers in tenderness back to their children and the hearts of the disobedient back to the wisdom of their righteous fathers. And he will prepare a *united people* who are ready for the Lord's appearing." TPT

Luke 15 ¹¹ Then Jesus said, "Once there was a father with two sons. ¹² The younger son came to his father and said, 'Father, don't you think it's time to give me my share of your estate?' So the father went ahead and distributed between the two sons their inheritance. ¹³ Shortly afterward, the younger son packed up all his belongings and traveled off to see the world. He journeyed to a far-off land where he soon wasted all he was given in a binge of extravagant and reckless living. ¹⁴ "With everything spent and nothing left, he grew hungry, because there was a severe famine in that land. ¹⁵ So he begged a farmer in that country to hire him. The farmer hired him and sent him out to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The son was so famished, he was willing even to eat the slop given to the pigs, because no one would feed him a thing. ¹⁷ "Humiliated, the son finally realized what he was doing, and he thought, 'There are many workers at my father's house who have all the food they want with plenty to spare. They lack nothing. Why am I here dying of hunger, feeding these pigs and eating their slop? ¹⁸ I want to go back home to my father's house, and I'll say to him, "Father, I was wrong. I have sinned against you. ¹⁹ I'll never again be worthy to be called your son. Please, Father, just treat me like one of your employees." ' ²⁰ "So the young son set off for home. From a long distance away, his father saw him coming, dressed as a beggar, and great compassion swelled up in his heart for

his son who was returning home. The father raced out to meet him, swept him up in his arms, hugged him dearly, and kissed him over and over with tender love. ²¹ “Then the son said, ‘Father, I was wrong. I have sinned against you. I could never deserve to be called your son. Just let me be—’ “The father interrupted and said, ‘Son, you’re home now!’ ²² “Turning to his servants, the father said, ‘**Quick, bring me the best robe, my very own robe, and I will place it on his shoulders. Bring the ring, the seal of sonship, and I will put it on his finger.** And bring out the best shoes you can find for my son. ²³ Let’s *prepare a great feast* and celebrate. ²⁴ **For my beloved son was once dead, but now he’s alive!** Once he was lost, but now he is found!’ And everyone celebrated with overflowing joy. TPT

1 Corinthians 13 ¹ If I were to speak with eloquence in earth’s many languages, and in the heavenly tongues of angels, yet I didn’t express myself with **love**, my words would be reduced to the hollow sound of nothing more than a clanging cymbal. ² And if I were to have *the gift of prophecy* with a profound understanding of God’s hidden secrets, and if I possessed unending supernatural knowledge, and if I had the greatest gift of faith that could move mountains, but have never learned to **love**, then I am nothing. ³ And if I were to be so generous as to give away everything I owned to feed the poor, and to offer my body to be burned *as a martyr*, without the pure motive of **love**, I would gain nothing of value. ⁴ **Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one’s achievements nor inflate its own importance.** ⁵ **Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense.** ⁶ **Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong.** ⁷ **Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.** ⁸ **Love never stops loving.** It extends beyond the gift of prophecy, which eventually fades away. It is more enduring than tongues, which will one day fall silent. Love remains long after *words of knowledge* are forgotten. ⁹ Our present knowledge and our prophecies are but partial, ¹⁰ but when love’s perfection arrives, the partial will fade away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke about childish matters, for I saw things like a child and reasoned like a child. But the day came when I matured, and I set aside my childish ways. ¹² For now we see but a faint reflection of riddles and mysteries as though reflected in a mirror, but one day we will see face-to-face. My understanding is incomplete now, but one day I will understand everything, just as everything about me has been fully understood. ¹³ **Until then, there are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love—yet love surpasses them all. So above all else, let love be the beautiful prize for which you run.** TPT

Galatians 5 ¹⁹ **The behavior of the self-life is obvious:** Sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography, ²⁰ chasing after things instead of God, manipulating others, hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are favored, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of yourself, being in love with your own opinions, ²¹ being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addictions, wild parties, and all other similar behavior. Haven’t I already warned you that those who use their “freedom” for these things will not inherit the kingdom realm of God! ²²⁻²³ **But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions:** *joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit.* Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless. TPT

Philippians 1 ⁶ *I pray with great faith for you, because I’m fully convinced that* **the One who began this gracious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ!** ⁹ **I continue to pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure,** bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things. TPT