



“1 NUMBER CHANGED EVERYTHING”

“The Greatest Love”

John 3:16 & Luke 15:11-30

November 10, 2013 AM Worship

The Greatest Love...

- God's Love is _____
- God's Love Pursues
- God's Love is _____
- God's Love is _____
- God's Love is _____
- God's Love Persists
- God's Love _____
- God's Love is Present (Presence)
- God's Love _____
- God's Love is a _____
- God's Love _____ for a Decision

Our Response:

1. Has there ever been a moment understood the incredible love of God and that it is offered to you? Have you accepted that love and now live in that love? If not, you can today!! Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord (the Boss).
2. In order for you to grow and be all that the Lord is calling you to be, you need to be plugged in to a church. If you do not have a church home, and God has called you to be a part of **Petal FBC**, then step across the line today and join! We need you and you need us!
3. Have you really let in how much God REALLY loves you? Spend some time this week thinking and writing on the love of God and how you have seen it, felt it, and experienced in your own persona life.
4. If your heart has grown cold and callous to the Father and His love, confess it and ask Him to melt your heart of stone and to experience that love once more.
5. If your heart has run away from the Father like the prodigal son, then confess, repent and return to Him, He is waiting with open arms.
6. If your heart is jealous or hateful of those who come to Christ or returned to Him, confess it and repent and ask Him to give you a fresh love for people.
7. If your heart is broken by a prodigal, ask God to heal it and give you the strength to carry on and never give up as the Father didn't give up.
8. If your heart is beating, rejoice and continue to walk with Him every day. Be thankful for His indescribable Love
9. No matter where your heart is, let's fall in love with the love of the Father that knows no bounds.
10. Finally let's continue to invite others to experience the incredible love of the Father that we experience now!

JOHN 3:16 THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

“The Greatest Love”

John 3:16& Luke 15:11-30

November 10, 2013 AM Service

Last Sunday we talked about “For God...” Who God is... Because God Is I am...Because God is I Can Be...Because God is I Can Have.

We turn to the next words. “...So Loved...” Love = Agape A God Love The NLT says, **For God so loved this world this much or so much.**

Even here the word love was not enough, it had to be described, it was a great love, huge, awesome, a love that had never been shown before nor since, a God love as we see in the word Agape. It is a love that is less about affection and more about a decision, less a feeling and more an action. We see in the OT the word *hasaq* – meaning a tethered love, a love attached to someone or something – **Deuteronomy 10:15** “The Lord chose your ancestors as the object of His love.” NLT God chains himself to Israel, why? Because they were lovable – oh far from it! “God wasn’t attracted to you and didn’t choose you because you were big or important, the fact is, there is almost nothing to you! He did it out of sheer love...” **Deuteronomy 7:7-8 MSG**

In essence, God has handcuffed Himself to us in love. And He alone owns the key. You need not win His love. You already have it! And since you can’t win it, then you can’t lose it! It is the only way we can define love. **I John 4:10** tells us “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son...”

ILLUS: Love, how much do you love me? We throw the word around all the time, I love you, Hey love ya, what do we really mean?

How does it compare to when God tells us that He loves us?

Isaiah 43:4 He tells of His great love, and now here in John 3:16 He shows, He demonstrates His great love.

We find in the OT and the Children of Israel God’s incredible love with His people.

Then we see an amazing picture of God found in New Testament in **Luke 15:11-30** The Story or the Parable of the Prodigal Son as well as the lost coin and the lost sheep. The focus on what is lost being found.

We want to focus on the Father more than anything else and His love!!

It truly is a love that we simply cannot comprehend. God loves us not for His own sake, but for ours, not to satisfy His desire for power like some monarch or king, but instead to satisfy His love. “God is the Father who cannot be happy until His wandering children have come home. God does not smash men into submission; He yearns over them, and woos them into love.” Barclay

It is a love that is not based upon me, my performance or who I am. God’s love is based upon who He is!! Truly is greatest love of all times. There is no greater love.

The Greatest Love...

- **God’s Love is Permanent** It never changes, always there, unchanging no matter what I do or say. It is fixed. It is the same no matter what the son did or did not do, it was the same. The Father’s love was always there, loyal, steadfast and sure. Circumstances didn’t change it, nothing changed it. His Word says He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Folks, God has never loved you more today than He did yesterday or than He will tomorrow. It will always be that way. The son was worried that the father’s love had changed, and he would just go back and be a servant. No way, praise the Lord it doesn’t work that way. He returned as a son and not a slave!
- **God’s Love Pursues** There are times that God pursues us as He did with Israel and then we see His pursuing of us changes. Here he does not pursue, but allows because of His great love for the son to run. The discipline is different, he lets him find out what real love is all about. And in a sense God does pursue, because God is always with us, even in the pig pens, we simply don’t recognize Him because we are covered with the filth of the world. But we get the idea, perhaps the worst form of God’s discipline is when He says, all right, go ahead, I have warned you, told you, pleaded with you, convicted you, but if this is the path you want to take, go ahead. He will also pursue us when we are like the big brother and refuse to come in to the party!
- **God’s Love is Pure** Our love is not pure, it is tainted, even with our own children and spouse. We are temperamental, we change with the wind, we don’t always love from the right motive or reason. God’s

love is pure, always loving with not what can I get or gain, but simply giving. As we will talk about next Sunday, this pure love gave His Son!

- **God's Love is Patient** Boy, what a description of God's love. He gives us chance after chance, not giving up on us no matter what. The father was patient with the son the entire time. The father was waiting every day looking for him to return home. Boy aren't you glad that God is patient with us. The father as so patient with the son.
- **God's Love is Perfect** It can't be done any better. The father loved the son perfectly, no better father than our Heavenly Father. He loves us enough to let us have the choice. He didn't chain the son down, even forbid him to go, the door was open, gave him what was promised and let him go. That is perfect love. Love that let's us go.
- **God's Love Persists** It is limitless, it has no bounds. It hangs in there even when we don't. It's stay the course. Nothing can separate us from His love [Romans 8](#) reminds us. Look what happens when the Son returns home, the Father sees him from a long way off, has compassion, runs to him, embraces him, gives him back the robe, ring, kills the fatted calf, and throws a huge party.
- **God's Love Provides** The son had all needed in the father's house, yet he thought the father was holding out something on him. Yet God's love gives us All we need, even a way to return home, a way to live the right way. Too often we think the world will provide what we are looking for, yet God's love and being in His presence is all that we will ever need. Yet we find the world cannot and will not ever be able to deliver its promise.
- **God's Love is Present (Presence)** The Father gave all to the son, he was with him, until he decided to depart from the physical presence of the father. Yet, the even then the father was still with him, because the son reflects back on what all he was missing when he woke up in that pig pen. He realized how far from the presence of his father he really was. He is always there, He never runs out on us!
ILLUS: Bec and losing her that night – couldn't find her – realized then how much I really loved her and couldn't imagine my life without her

- **God's Love Protects** From ourselves, from the world, but we can outrun from that protection if we live in sin and squander our lives away. He does protect us for sure, we only have to look around and see that is true. And even to see the times that God has protected us even when we did not know it.
- **God's Love is a Party** Look at the end, after the all that has happened, the lost has returned home, a party ensues. God's love is the greatest place to be, it is a place designed to be of great enjoyment, living in the pleasure of God. [See Verse 10](#)
- **God's Love Pleads for a Decision**
My goodness can't win God's love and my badness can't lose it. But you can resist it! Mark it down: God loves you with an unearthly love. You can't win it by being winsome. You can't lose it by being a loser. But you can be blind enough to resist it! I plead with you not to today! For heaven's sake don't! For your sake don't! ["Take it in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth? Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. "Ephesians 3:18-19 Message](#)

Song: "When God Ran"

ILLUS: Laminin Molecule

Cell Adhesion Molecule in our bodies. Protein Molecule – cells organize into certain molecular structures and that determines what protein they are – there are between 10 and 60 thousand proteins in the human body, really don't know how many proteins there are in the human body... but one of them is this cell adhesion molecule called laminin – tells the cell what it's job is – it's like the rebar of the human body (like the wire they put into concrete to help hold it together), holding your membranes together, it's the glue of the human body are you impressed it – you have to see it to believe it... when I saw it for the first time – I was like wow, this is amazing, unbelievable! You need to see laminin show the picture...

Electron Microscopic image of an actual laminin molecule

The stuff that holds our bodies together, that's hold the lining of organs together, that holds our skin on is in the perfect shape of the cross of our

Lord Jesus Christ! [Colossians 1:17-23](#)

Everything holds together in Jesus Christ

It all comes down to God's heart and our heart.

We have spoken clearly about God's heart today, His love that is all the things and more. We see how great the Father's love is for His children.

The question is really then what about our heart? Where is my love today? Where is your love?

We have a choice today. We can accept this love, live in this love or live in the way of the world's love. Where are you today?

The world's love is conditional, where God's love is unconditional.

The only condition of God's love is that we ABC.

For the child of God, are you and I walking daily in His love?