

God's reckless love

Cory Asbury said "A lot of people have asked why I use the word 'reckless' to describe the love of God. I see the love of God as something wild, insane, crazy. The way that he pursues, chases us down, loves, I believe, is reckless. We were going after that really furious, violent language to speak of the nature of the love of God."

The language of the author is deliberately poetic. He has decided to take certain aspects of "reckless" to describe God's love. By the world's standards, God's love appears reckless, or maybe extravagant, overstated, excessive and scandalous. When explained to an audience like this the love of God is seen as wild, overwhelming, fierce and relentless. **God loves** because according to **1 John 4: 8 "God is love."**

- God loves you and there is nothing you can do about that! You can hate God, not believe in God, you can question His love for you, or you can literally say this is too good to be true... but you'd be wrong. God love you – there is nothing you can do about that!
- There is nothing you can do to make him love you or to stop Him loving you. Try and you'd fail. This by the way is not the love of a stalker – but of a benevolent, caring, compassionate and generous Father – can a parent ever stop loving their children – maybe – but God simply cannot stop loving you. You can try everything in the book to make Him stop loving you... but you'd fail.
- There is nothing you can do make him love you more or love you less. God is love and simply loves. Again try and prove your worth to God – try to be good hoping God will love you more. Try to earn God's love... you can try but you'd fail there too.

Ephesians 3:17 – 19, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Paul prays we can somehow "grasp how wide, and long and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses our human knowledge!" The love Jesus showed to mankind is impossible to measure with human measurements. We will never plumb the depth, or comprehend the width or fathom the heights of God's great love towards us. God's love defies human calculations. God's love is extravagant, lavish, opulent, rich and very flamboyant. It is beyond our human comprehension.

Listen to how God's love is exhibited.

Paul was a prolific writer of NT truth. He literally wrote two thirds of the NT. Listen to this scripture found in **1 Corinthians 13:4 – 7** as it seeks to describe God's kind of love. **Passion Translation:**

"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. Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honour. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. 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."

God's love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. This is the kind of love that flows from God's heart. This is the kind of love that Jesus demonstrated when he was crucified as a common murderer but was instead the saviour of the world. This is the consistent kind of love He demonstrates to the whole human race. God is love – it is His nature and it is extravagant, furious, insane, crazy, and wild and at times it appears reckless. But is real, undeniable and genuine.

This all begs a question. **How much does God love you?** The answer is – a lot!! But His love is not passive. His love is not static. We are not simply the recipients of a divine emotion with no actions. This isn't a romantic, mamby pamby kind of gushy love.

God loves us fiercely, passionately and intensely. His love towards us was demonstrated by Jesus who was willing to die for our salvation and the chance of a relationship with God. So God's love is at work with us, poured out into our lives and His love instructs us how to love the world as well. So how much does God love us? I have 3 points for your consideration – there are a ton others but I believe these 3 will help you to grow.

1. **God loves us enough to not leave us the way He found us.**

God's love is not an excuse to live however you want. God's love is not an excuse to live a disobedient life. God's love is not an excuse to wallow in your unforgiveness, bitterness and pain. God loves you and His love is an active agent for change in your life. God loves us enough to not leave us the way He found us.

God is lovingly committed to our healing and committed to our future. He will seek to work in our lives in various ways to see Christ formed in us. God is desiring that our lives change to be mature and more like Jesus. He loves us enough to help us grow up and be set free from harmful attitudes and behaviour.

Ephesians 4: 11 – 13 says it this way, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [to the church] to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God **and become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Maturity, or becoming whole, this is the aim of God's love towards us. He loves us too much to leave us as infants, naïve and innocent regarding evil. **Ephesians 4: 14** says it this way, "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming."

God's love make us strong. God's love enables to endure. God's love enables us to discern cunning and crafty people the enemy would bring into our lives. God's love develops insight, discernment, understanding and wisdom. We will be able to stand in the evil day against the deceitful scheming of others because of God's great love.

2. **God loves us enough not to take us out of troubles but to strengthen us in the midst of troubles.**

There is an OT account of 3 Hebrew boys from the book of **Daniel** who were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to bow down to the statue of the King? God didn't put out the fire. He just put Himself in there with them and they came out without even the smell of smoke. It's not about God stopping all the things that look bad; it's about who is in there with you. It's about who now lives within you!

God's love doesn't always deliver us from tough circumstances, hard choices or the tribulations of life. Instead his love guides us in wisdom, directs us with insight and discernment and leads us through the fire with understanding. God's love strengthens us in the fire, helps us to brace for the storms and keep standing when the enemy attacks.

God love is a constant in our lives, He promises to never leave or forsake us. It's the love of God that inspires us while we are in the fiery tribulations and tests. The love of God is here to encourage us, strengthen us and inspire us to follow Him closer.

I have discovered God is closer to me in the midst of dark times than in the good times. It's during the tough times I sense Him closer and encouraging me to trust Him and to grow in my knowledge of His love for me. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8: 38 – 39, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

3. **God loves enough to draw us even in our own stubbornness.**

God's love doesn't nullify our will. We are truly a free agent in life to do whatever we wish in life. Sometime we decided to disobey God's word and defy principles of life. We will suffer consequences from any decision even bad ones and God's love will not nullify those consequences. God can't force us to do His will. We are not robots or computer software. Our will is real and even though God loves us with an everlasting love we must decide to love Him back.

Even though God's love us it doesn't mean we won't suffer the consequences of our foolishness. But He loves us enough to not let us go. We are always in His hands and He will never leave us or forsake us. Often times it is God's grace that enables us to endure the consequences of our own foolishness rather be broken by them. Remember God is for us and in the scriptures we see and understand His will for us. But there remain times when we with unrepentant hearts turn our backs on Him.

What we need to know is that in the midst of our disobedience in the midst of our stubborn refusal to acknowledge God He is still there is seeking after us. God is often times tries to get our attention. But He won't make us love Him back. But there is a quality to God's love, it is unfailing, that means He won't give up on us and will follow us wooing us to the end.

Jeremiah 31: 3 says this about God's love, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

The primary interpretation is of course to the backslidden nation of Israel but we can see a secondary application here as well – God's love seeks to draw us even while our hearts are turned against Him.

It is God's love that desperately appeals to us to change our minds. Even when we are a 1,000 miles away from God still His love reaches out to us and seeks to draw us to Himself. Many times in scripture God's love is called "unfailing love." I love that about God. He's always there to help us back on the road to a life worthy of His name.

God's love never gives up and right to the end of our struggles His love draws us. It is our response He waits for – will we surrender and say YES to His claims upon our life? Our response is crucial

If you are living in disobedience, if you have disconnected from Christ, even if you are a backslidden Christian – the love of God reaches out to you. His love is seeking your attention – His love is seeking to draw you to Him. How will you respond? Will you say YES to Jesus? Will you change your mind about Him?