

LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE

“Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.”
Ephesians 5:2

Dearly Loved Children

*“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
 Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)*

In order to walk in the way of love, you must first know love. You cannot give something that you do not have. “We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) If you do not have the love of God inside, then you will not be able to effectively love like He loves you. Therefore, in order to imitate God, to follow His example, you must first know receive His love and accept your identity as His dearly loved child. Then, and only then, will you be able to live a life of love.

Anyone who receives Christ and believes in Him becomes the child of God. Once you decide to follow Jesus, you are immediately adopted into the family of God and given full rights as His child. God took great pleasure in making you His child through Jesus! You are accepted, highly favored, and you belong! What wonderful, lavish love He has poured out so you would be called His child!

“The LORD your God is in your midst; He is a warrior who can deliver. He takes great delight in you; He renews you by His love; He shouts for joy over you.” Zephaniah 3:17 (NET)

God takes great delight in you! He is not some distant, uninterested being in the sky. Nor is He an angry father, ready to strike anyone down who upsets Him. God is not a task master, demanding perfection. Actually, He is a good Father who delights in you, who renews you in His love and calms your fears. He doesn’t shout angrily, but shouts for joy. God rejoices over you!

Oh how important it is to know the truth about the loving nature of your Heavenly Father and your identity as His dearly loved child. Your very life flows from that identity. When you know that you are deeply, dearly loved by God, then you will be filled with the fullness of God, and able to live a life of love. You will run to your loving Father, and not away from Him. You will rest and abide in His love. Then you will learn how to live from that love.

Dearly loved child, your Heavenly Father is calling you to Him. He wants to show you the fullness of His love for you. He wants to hold you in His loving arms, to calm your fears, to renew you in His love, and rejoice over you with singing. May you come to know the height, depth, length and width of His surpassing love.

FURTHER READING

Ephesians 3:17-19, 4:4-7, John 1:12-13, Galatians 4:4-7, 1 John 3:1, 4:7-19, Romans 8:15-17, Psalms 35:27, John 15:9

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