

**Everlasting Love**  
**What does that mean to you?**  
**10/22/2017 Sunday AM**

**Scripture: Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16, Romans 8:35-39,**

**Introduction**

- Last week we talked about God's Not Finished With You Yet: Being God's Workmanship.
- It is important that we focus on salvation in the church, but also sanctification.
- Sanctification is the process we go through to become more holy, more like our Savior.
- In more plain terms, Sanctification is the process by which God "cleans us up" and molds us like clay.
- So as we said last week, do not be discouraged if you find yourself less than perfect right now. However, make sure you are still surrendering yourself to God Almighty so He can continue to work on you.
- This morning I would like us to talk about Everlasting Love: What does that mean to you?
- I think there are times that we all have felt that God does not love us or care about us.
- Hopefully this morning we will have a better understanding of how God loves us, and in turn, how we should love one another.
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**Jeremiah 31:3**

<sup>3</sup>"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

- **What does it mean to you, that God has loved you with "an everlasting love?"**
- The Hebrew word that is used in this verse for "everlasting" is *`owlam* which means: the vanishing point.
- In order to understand this word, you have to think about space, where you cannot see its beginning or end.
- That is what God is saying in this verse, that His love is such that you cannot see where it begins and no matter how hard you look, you cannot see where it ends. It is "everlasting," it is perpetual.
- When *`owlam* is used for the past, it means "the most ancient". For the future it is "everlasting."
- **Understanding that God says He loves us in this way, why do we at times feel like He no longer cares?**
- I really think it comes from a tremendous lack of understanding God's love, and us trying to think about how He loves in terms of how we love.

**John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

- This is the single most quoted passage of Scripture in all of the Bible.
- One would think that people would have grasped its meaning by now, and they would understand it.
- How important is that "so?"
- In the Greek and the English, the "so" shows the degree to which God loves us.
- So this passage is telling us that God loved the world to such a degree, that "he gave his one and only Son..."
- The context of this verse should tell us plainly that this is meaning that God loved us a whole whole lot!
- **What does John 3:16 teach us about the love of God?** Think beyond the degree of love, what else?
- He is not a God of empty promises and meaningless words, He is a God of action.
- Not only did God tell us that He loved us with an "everlasting" love and with a love that was great, but He showed us He loves us. He gave His only Son to save us.
- **Seeing as how God has told us that He loves us and showed us He loves us, why do we feel differently at times in our lives?**
- **What could possibly happen to cause God to stop loving us?**

## Romans 8:35-39

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>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."

- Paul says that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword, death, life, angels, demons, the present, the future, or any powers, nether height, depth, "nor anything else in all creation."
- Now I will ask the last question again, **What could possible happen to cause God to stop loving us?**
- I think Paul cover everything in those 5 verses.
  
- You may stop loving God, but He will NEVER stop loving you.
- Since the beginning of time, He has been pursuing us and drawing us to Him.
- The second part of **Jeremiah 31:3** says, "...I have drawn you with loving-kindness."
- God did not create us and then leave us to figure the rest out on our own.
- The Bible paints a beautiful picture of how God has been pursing and drawing us even right till the end.
- It is not just that He did draw us, but that He is still drawing us to Him, and promises to do so until He returns to get us!
- God doesn't create us and then cross His fingers and simply hope we will come to a saving knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ, He actively pursues us every day of our life.
- When we fall short, it is not because He doesn't love us or care about us. 100% of the time it is because we do not love Him or care about Him.
- **Think about it like this, what would the world look like if we loved God like He loves us?**
- I have asked a similar question in the past, but that was about us loving others in the way God loves us.
- What I am talking about this morning is us loving God, in the way He loves us.
- It would be a love that is unconditional, everlasting, limitless, and filled with actions that show it.
- This is actually His command to us, **Deuteronomy 6:5**, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."
- He loves us that way, and that is why there is no beginning or end to His love, because He Himself has no beginning or end.

## Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

### The Agents of the Apocalypse

The Victor

Revelation 19:11-21