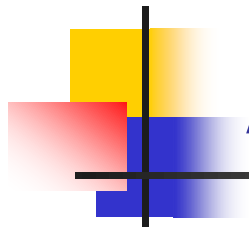




The Power of Perfect Love



Abba's Child – B. Mannning

Shivering in the rags of my winter years, either I escape into skepticism and intellectualism, or with radical amazement, **I surrender in faith to the truth of my belovedness.**





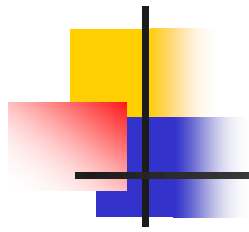
Good News, YOU ARE

- **deeply loved by God,**
 - **fully accepted by God,**
 - **completely and permanently forgiven by God,**
 - **lavishly blessed by God,**
 - **and eternally, perfectly embraced by God**
- as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY**



Dearly Beloved

The Christian life is the life of ***belovedness***, there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing beyond it. We surrender to the truth that we are forever safe, we are forever accepted, we are forever **acceptable**, we are forever immersed in the spirit of adoption by which we cry ABBA, Father, we are forever the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus and we will always have a future and a hope because he will never leave us or forsake us.



Unbelievable, Inconceivable

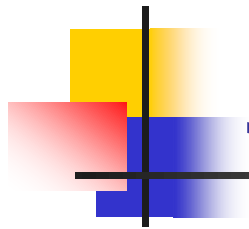
It finally dawns on us that our existence is completely based on and nourished in every way by **nothing** except His all encompassing love for us, **and is not connected in even the slightest way to even a shred of our worthiness.** “Nothing in my hands I bring. Only to the cross I cling”

Of course, This is patently unbelievable and totally and completely beyond our understanding. It simply makes no sense to our mind that has been programmed by the world and there is no room in the paradigm of our daily life that prepares us to live in this divine dimension.



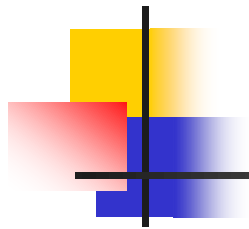
So It Shall Ever Be

So, the greatest step of faith, and **the most courageous act of absolute and humble surrender**, is to live every day with our hope firmly fixed to this truth even though **our brains are screaming at us that this is absolute foolish insanity**. And then do it again day after day after day until eventually it seems a little less insane and gradually more and more beautifully amazing, and we eventually reach a point where our hearts are filled with nothing but joy and gratitude, and that begins to crowd out all of the lies and fear until we find our rest exclusively and permanently in him and the truth that **we are his beloved and so it shall ever be.**



John 15:9

Just as the Father has
loved me, I have also
loved you ; **abide in
my love**



Ephesians 3:16-19

He will grant you to be **strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person,** ¹⁷ that Christ will dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because **you have been rooted and grounded in love,** ¹⁸ you will be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ^[b] ¹⁹ and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you will be filled up to^[c] all the fullness of God.



Experiencing the Power of Love

- Step one: Surrender to your belovedness, nothing can separate you from His Love
- **Purpose** is – out of that fullness of joy in recognizing how loved, how beloved, how valued and how pleasing we are to him – **begin to see those around us as also dearly beloved, and let God love them through you that way as well!!**
- Gal. 4:19 – Until Christ is formed in you
- What is the mark of a true disciple of Jesus?



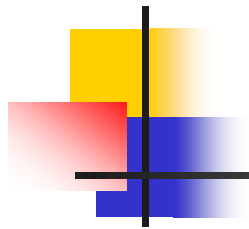
Tragic Failure

- Heart-crushing failure of the church is to deprive the world of this powerful, healing, cleansing and liberating truth:
- Yes, we are his beloved, **BUT as His beloved**, He has placed us here to share the good news – the **proclamation** and **invitation** of this blessed state of being - with others who are also beloved of God, **THEY JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET!!!!**



Totally Missed the Point

- The spirit of this world and the spirit of Religion perverts the whole vision of the kingdom of God and turns it into a petty clash of doctrines – who is the most right – and who works the hardest to look holiest
- Even worse in this generation – a clash of political ideologies that have nothing **NOTHING** to do with the nature or the calling or the identity of a disciple of Jesus or the mission of disciple, which is what????????



Perfect = Complete, Mature

16 And we have come to know and to believe^[a] **the love that God has in us.**^[b] God is love, and **the one who resides**^[c] **in love resides in God, and God resides in him.** **17** **By this**^[d] love is perfected with^[e] us, so that we may have **confidence** in the day of judgment, because **just as Jesus**^[f] **is, so also are we in this world.** **18** There is **no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear**, because fear has to do with punishment.^[g] **The**^[h] **one who fears punishment**^[i] **has not been perfected in love.**



Who Is Your Assignment Today?

- Our Identity – We are Beloved of God
- Our Mission – treat EVERYONE around us as His Beloved, too, whether they know it or not yet, and whether their behavior or attitudes seem “worthy” of such love
- They won’t be changed, relationships will not be healed, souls will not be saved, until the Love of Jesus IN us flows out of us and blesses the people around us
- His Love for you and living in you **changes you first**, and **that** changes everything



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