

Live for Love

- Ron Stullenbarger -

If there is one major theme in the narrative of Scripture it's the power of God's love. It was His love that caused our creation. It was in love that He offered mankind grace even in our continual rebellion. It was His love that sent Jesus to rescue us, and it's His love that will win at our final redemption—the gathering of all of God's people for the great wedding feast.

God is love. He can do nothing apart from love. Jesus says in Mark 12:30-31 that all of the commandments are summed up for us in one word—love. We were created to be loved by God and to love Him and others in return. And we will never find satisfaction until we rest in the unconditional love of our heavenly Father. We will never find true purpose until we live to love God and others.

To live for love is to step outside of the ways and cares of this world and live for the kingdom of God. It's to choose to root ourselves in the unconditional affection of our heavenly Father rather than seeking fulfillment from the fickle love of mankind. It's to choose to serve and give rather than looking to receive from a world that has so little to offer. To live for love is to seek first God and His ways and thereby receive the fullness of life only He can give.

When you begin your days in the presence of God, you lay for yourself a foundation of God's unconditional love. To allow God to invade the first moments of your day with the truth of His love for you will strengthen you to stop looking for fulfillment in the things of the world. It is impossible to live for love as Jesus commands unless we first receive daily the perfect, powerful love of our heavenly Father. *"We love because he first loved us"* (1 John 4:19).

I pray this love fills your heart to overflowing, and then in response to the love of God you advance His kingdom of love on earth. God's love for you is so intense, so purposeful, and so abundant that just a taste of it has the power to shift your life from one lived selfishly to one lived sacrificially. May His love stir your affections for Him and others. May you live a life transformed by the love of your heavenly Father. May you live for love!