



Receiving Gods love

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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 (John 3:16).

Christmas is about a love story!

It involves a people who have lost sight of the one who loves them the most, and who have given their love to other things. It's about how the Lover wins back his lost love. The story of humanity really is one of lost loves. The Bible tells us that the first humans enjoyed the company and love of their Creator, but they were enticed to abandon him and surrender their hearts to another. When love was severed darkness overcame human hearts. Ever since we have been experiencing the effects of this lost love. Sadly, it is not a love withheld by God but one withheld by human beings.

The Creator warned about the consequences of this separation which the Bible calls sin – going our own independent way – and we have reaped what we have sown. So, why doesn't God just do something to fix the problem? Simply put God is just and acts justly – we are rightly condemned for our waywardness. But, gladly, He has done something, the most loving thing He could do.

He sent His Son to love us and die for us. *We might think that God should have done it a different way, but God has done it His way.* Through sending His Son God addressed the problem of our sin and also His desire to love us. Jesus took our sins upon himself and died the death as representative man, taking in himself the full force of our just punishment. **He who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).** **God's justice** was done. Also, **His mercy and love** were shown through Jesus death. Not only are we forgiven our sins, but we have been reconciled to God.

God's love is manifest on the Cross for you and me. His desire is always that we be reconciled to Him and come to know and enjoy His love again, as His children.

At Christmas time we think of a baby. A baby is about love! And Jesus was love incarnate, the Immanuel – God with us. What Jesus did for us through His life, death, and resurrection is all about God's love.

And now we have the opportunity in this life to receive His love.

So how do we receive His love?

We receive His love by receiving Jesus – not as an abstract religious icon, but as a real person who is alive today, and who comes to dwell with us and in us by His Spirit.

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour – His saving work on the Cross – we step into having been reconciled to God – our enmity with Him is over; we have peace with Him.

Many will know of the astonishing event Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 1914 during WW1 when 'thousands of British, Belgian and French soldiers put down their rifles, stepped out of their trenches and spent Christmas mingling with their German enemies along the Western front. In the more than hundred years since, the event has been seen as a kind of miracle, a rare moment of peace just a few months into a war that would eventually claim over 15 million lives.' [World War I Christmas Truce of 1914: What Really Happened | Time](#)

The tragedy was it was only a brief truce. The war recommenced in all its horror shortly after. Such is the hostility, alienation and lack of love caused by the fall of humanity.



God does not offer a truce but everlasting peace.

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'" (Luke 2:14).

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God....(2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

God's dream is for us to be reconciled to Him; to know and experience His love again.

To receive Him and His love we come to Him in prayer. We speak to Him and acknowledge that we are sinners, and we receive forgiveness for our sins through Jesus sacrifice. We accept Him as Lord and Saviour. Then we commit our hearts fully to Him to love Him as our God and reject all other 'gods'. Through faith and trust in Jesus we enter into and receive His love and enjoy our relationship of peace with God now and forever. *Love lost was regained!*

That Christmas Eve in 2014 it was the Christ child that moved men to lay aside their hostility and guns to offer a hand of friendship? God still offers us His hand of love and friendship through Jesus. Will you receive Him?



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