
Steadfast Love

Victory Life Church — Advent 2019

Saturday, December 21, 2019 — This is Real Love

John 3:16-17 (ESV) For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Jesus is the PROOF of God's Love

The motive of God in sending His Son was to save the world, His heart is love. There is no other religion or philosophy in the world that defines God's character in this way. There are many in our world who recognize that love is what we need, but have no way of understanding how we actually can live this way. God did not leave us to ourselves to figure this out. He showed us exactly what love is and what love does.

1 John 4:9-10 (NLT) God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. **This is real love**—not that we loved God, but that **he loved us** and **sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins**.

God showed His love, not by giving a new philosophy, but by sending His Son. Our sin had made us turn our backs on God's love, but God did not hold it against us, but sent His Son to deal with our sins by giving His life as a sacrifice to take our sins away. This is real love, no other God did this for us.

Jesus is the PRESENCE of God's Love

God did not stand apart from our suffering, He did not love us at a distance. He came into the mess and brokenness of our world and was "God with us". His steadfast love for us compelled Him to be with us and give His life for us.

Matthew 1:18-23 (NLT) This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will **save** his people from their sins." All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means '**God is with us**.'"