

Love...as it should be

by Verla Schmirler

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are (1 John 3:1 ESV).

In the beginning, as recorded in Genesis 1, our loving Father created the perfect home for us. He established a perfect order before creating us and provided everything necessary to give us a comfortable and purposeful life. Best of all was the joy of walking and talking with Him, and the knowledge that He loved us.

The Father gave us only one warning: not to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for if we did, we would surely die. In love, He allowed us to choose how we respond to Him, to choose life or death.

The consequences of eating that fruit were life-changing. For the first time, we felt shame and fear. Our daily tasks became labourious toil, and we experienced pain and suffering like never before. To protect us from living and dying in our fallen state, the Father drove us from the garden, and set an angel to bar our way to the Tree of



Life. We would surely die forever if He did not intervene.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him (John 3:16-17 ESV).

The Father loved us, but He hated our sin. To remove our sin from us would require extreme measures. And so He sent “*Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose from*

the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead” (Apostles’ Creed, Article II).
We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19 ESV).

We were created in the image of the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—to love and to be loved. However, in our fallen world, love doesn’t come naturally. We must learn to love, and this happens only through Christ Jesus, the embodiment of God’s love. We learn to love His way, and to look toward Eternity where love is as it should be.

Pray:

Dear Father, pour Your perfect love through Christ and into me, that I may share it in this world with all who need to see the perfect love You have for them. Show us how You meant love to be, that all persons may come to faith in Christ and live eternally! In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen.

Sing:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
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