

# **My Father Really Loves Me**

**By**

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## “My Father Really Loves Me”

I recently read an article written by a retired Army Chaplain friend which touched my heart and influenced the writing of this article. He told of his routine of spending time with his little girl that included a regular walk, along with their family pet dog. The Chaplain and his family lived in the German village town, Trippstadt, at that time.

His daughter’s name is “Kayabee” and their pet, a Yorkshire terrier, is named “Mickey.” My friend used the time with his daughter as a time to bond with her and also a time to verbally express the special love that he had for his special little girl. He referenced both his daughter and pet as his “buddy” but expressed to her the fact that she ranked the highest on the “buddy” scale. She was his buddy *number one*, and “Mickey” was buddy *number two*! He would say to Kayabee, “Kayabee, Mickey is my little buddy rascal number two, but you are my little buddy rascal number one.”

My friend later noticed during their walks that his daughter expressed to him a degree of displeasure at being his buddy number one. Her little mind comprehended the number two from the standpoint of its quantity arrangement on the number scale rather than its chronological arrangement. Number one, chronologically, is first on the number scale and, therefore usually used to express something or someone as having special or priority status. My friend was simply making it known to his daughter that he prioritized her more than their pet, but she held the highest status of his love and affection.

Kayabee knew that number two, quantitatively, was more than one. She told her dad that she preferred being number two! She simply wanted to be sure that her daddy loved her more and valued her more than Mickey! My friend then recognized the slight communication breakdown with his daughter and used her thought process to assure her of his special and priority love towards her. He assured her then that she was his number one, number two, number three, number four, and number five buddy! Kayabee then brightened up in knowing that her dad put her first and loved her most. What a precious story!

My chaplain friend’s special love for his daughter was made clear to her when he communicated that truth in the way that was compatible with her understanding.

I think of the special or “so amazing” love that God has for the world of mankind. The Bible’s most popular verse comes to mind. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

I find it difficult to comprehend the full depth of God’s love respecting the world of humanity. I can understand the love that God would have towards His beloved Son, the precious Son of God! I understand the love that a child of God has for the Lord. God does indeed dip His pen of love in the heart and writes the soul a message! God’s love is shed abroad in the heart, and Peter’s words become personal to the recipient of His salvation. “Whom having not seen, ye love.” (I Pet.1:8)

The love of a Christian for the Saviour is a reality nothing short of a miracle, for only God can change the heart and life in such a way that hostility towards God becomes love for God! Grace enables a love for God on the part of the Christian. The love for the Lord had its embryonic beginning in His love for us! Our love for Him is nurtured by the Holy Spirit's presence, for He puts the spotlight on the glorious Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. I, quite frankly, find it easy to love Him!

I can understand why God loves His Son and I can now understand why I love the Lord, but I still cannot fully understand how God can unconditionally love the sinner! Theologically, it makes sense to understand His love because of His nature. God is love! I also understand that the Creator of mankind loves His creation! My struggle in the understanding of the love of God is in the area of His unconditional love. I think of mankind's sinful state and rebellion against God. I also weigh in my own flawed spiritual state. I know that I too was a rebel against God before His grace saved me and His love lifted me! But, quite frankly, I have a hard time loving all people unconditionally! I couldn't begin to love a murderer, a rapist, and an enemy combatant as I love a member of my church! God, however, loves universally and unconditionally in spite of a person's sinful nature and choices. His love is so amazing! His love extended beyond mere emotions for "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..." – John 3:16

His amazing love not only drew salvation's plan but was introduced to this world by grace through the sacrifice of His Son. God placed the sinner "number one" in the attention of love and His love numbers one, two, three, four, five, etc., for His love is boundless!

Simply stated I am a hell deserving sinner, but He is a Holy and loving God. I deserve punishment because of my sin for I am a sinner. He is sinless for He is God but, yet, became a sin substitute in my stead and died for me! He loved me in spite of my sins and proved that love by virtue of His Son's death in my stead! I do not understand such unconditional and boundless love. "Love so amazing!"

His love displayed a priority consideration of our need at the expense of His Son's death! There is no doubt that the number one favorite to God of all His creation is mankind. The cross, especially, proves mankind's preference status in the heart of God. God's love for the sinner is matchless and impartial. He loves us in spite of who we are and what we have done. His love is not conditional for the lowest and the meanest specimens of humans are recipients of His love as surely as the kindest and upright!

The people, as Jesus was making His way to the cross, chose to release the guilty robber by the name of Barabbas. They then chose to crucify the innocent Saviour. The crowd that day released the guilty and assigned guilt to the innocent.

What did God do at Calvary? He assigned guilt to His own Son when He bore our sins upon Himself upon the cross. "For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." – II Cor.5:21 At Calvary, God placed the needs of

the world on center stage. At Calvary, the physical sufferings of Christ paled in comparison to His spiritual sufferings. His sufferings from the hand of God had depth beyond our comprehension. The spotless and Holy Son of God actually became a sin substitute on Calvary! Our finite minds cannot begin to comprehend the depth of anguish flowing from the heart of God, the Son, that day at Calvary. His anguish was reflected in His piercing cry. The sun even refused to shine while He was stretched out on that altar during which the billows of God's wrath lashed against the peerless Lamb of God. God, that day at Calvary, unleashed His full wrath against His own Son as our sin was imputed to Him.

It is totally impossible for any Bible theologian or scholar to even begin to understand and articulate the words and emotions in the cry of God's Lamb for, as Luther said, "How can God forsake God?" He cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mat.27:46)

We cannot fully understand the theological implications of His cross work but the wording of Scripture is clear in terms of God's motive. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." – John 3:16. His love for sinners included a provision for their sin problem. A perfect sacrifice had to be made to take care of the sin problem and the Lamb of God was that sacrifice!

My friend, that day, assured his little girl that she meant the world to him. He assured her that he loved her more than she could imagine. His love for her was not only a first love but also a full love. He gladdened her little heart with the idea that she was fully his buddy. She was, in fact, all of the numbers combined and well beyond number one and number two!

I enjoy the privilege of walking with my heavenly Father. I sometimes question His love, due to my weakened frame and feeble mind. The world's chatter and human insecurities are blatant enemies against simple trust in my Father's love and care. Precious communion with Him is sometimes severed by the weaknesses associated with this fleshly body of clay! I am tempted to sometimes question His love, and I especially struggle from time to time as to how He can continue loving me in spite of my sinfulness.

I then open His Book of love, the Bible. It was only another Book prior to meeting its Author! It now has my interest because it is written by the One who loves me and I, furthermore, know it! When I ponder the truth of His Word and the wonders of His grace, I then more clearly see the love of His heart. I then understand that my Father loves me individually and fully. It is in those moments that He seems to draw me to Himself and gently wipes away the tears of doubt. I can almost hear Him say to me as my friend said to his little girl, "You are my little buddy, number one, number two, number three, number four, number five." He then takes me by the hand, and we walk along together. I then know that I am His friend and buddy because He befriended me by His loving grace.

My Father and I have been walking along together for many years. I have slipped along the way and sometimes questioned His love and care. Many times in our walk I have expected to be left

to myself for I have tumbled into miserable precipices. I have thought from time to time, "Father doesn't love me after that fall." I sometimes don't understand what He is saying to me. My words and my thinking do not seem to match His words and thinking. Yet, in my weakest moments, I, like little "Kayabee," find my tiny hands in His big hands and know that my Father really does love me! It is then that I really don't care where He leads me because I know that He loves me and that is really what matters the most.

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