

Priceless! You are Loved!

I Am Loved Immeasurably

Last month I celebrated my 27th wedding anniversary with my husband. Twenty seven years—that is a long time. On a Wednesday evening in June 1997, my husband bent down on one knee and asked me to marry him. I said yes, and he put a beautiful diamond ring on my finger. Seven months later, he added the gold wedding band. Every day, I glance at my left hand frequently and see the beautiful diamond, and I know I am loved and cherished. My diamond ring is a physical reminder that my husband loves me and chose to spend his life with me!

There is someone who loves me more than my husband (and be assured, my husband loves me a lot!). God loves me! Author Alicia Bruxvort wrote, *"The shape of true love isn't a diamond. It's a cross."* God loves us and gives us something more precious, priceless and valuable than a diamond. John 3:16 tells us, ***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.***

Why would God do this? 1 John 4:8 declares ***God is love.*** It is because His very nature, His very essence is love. Love is who He is and what He does. From before time began He had chose to love us: ***For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will*** (Ephesians 1:4-5). His love is eternal. God declares these words, ***"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."*** (Jeremiah 31:3)

His love for us is undeserved, and it was costly. Romans 5:6-8 proclaims, ***You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

God showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, who died a horrible and painful death on the cross, to be the payment for our sins. 1 John 3:16 says, ***This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.***

Yes, I love my diamond ring, very much. It is one of my priceless treasures because of what it represents. I will continue to look at my left hand numerous times a day, and relish the fact that I have a husband that loves me very much, but more than that, I will celebrate the fact that God loves me infinitely more! His love for me is immeasurable! Ephesians 3:17b-19 says, ***And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.***

Today celebrate the fact that you are immeasurably loved by God!



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Conversation Starters

Gather with some friends and spend some time going deep with conversation around the fact that you are loved by God.

- ◆ What things do you love?
- ◆ Who do you love? How do you show them your love?
- ◆ What is the biggest way someone showed their love to you?
- ◆ What do you love about God and why?
- ◆ What Bible verses resonate with you about God's love?
- ◆ Do you believe that everyone is loved by God, regardless of their actions?
- ◆ What does the idea of unconditional love mean to you?
- ◆ What things in your life do you struggle to believe that God loves you despite these things?
- ◆ How do you know God loves you from your own experience?
- ◆ How can you show the love of God to someone else this week?

"I was good enough, imperfect as I am. I had the love that completed me, the love that never fails, the truest love of all. God's love, a love that never goes away." Andie MacDowell

Sunrise to Sunset Prayers

"God's love for us is proclaimed by each sunrise." Anonymous

Thanks to Hallmark cards and the celebration of Valentine's Day, February has become synonymous with love. Since this month is all about love, let's spend the each day this month reminding ourselves that we are God's beloved. We are loved by Him!

Begin every day, as the sun rises, praying this verse as your morning prayer. Focus on that fact that you are loved by a God whose love is unfailing. (okay, if you aren't normally up to watch the sunrise, schedule at least one day this month when you will wake up early and enjoy the sunrise, contemplating God's love for you).

**Lord, satisfy me in the morning with Your unfailing love,
that I may sing for joy and be glad in all my days.**

(based on Psalm 90:14)

At the end of your day, or as the sun sets pray this as your prayer. Focus on how God has faithfully shown His love to you throughout the day. (Again, if you don't normally take the time to enjoy a sunset, schedule at least one day this month when you will stop, watch a sunset and focus on God's love for you).

**Lord, it is good for me to praise You,
and make music to Your name, O Most High.
I proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night.**

(based on Psalm 92:1-2).

Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources to help you focus on your identity - You are loved: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Bible Study: *You are Loved* by Major Jennifer Erickson-King
 Blog: *God's Love Story* by Major Beth Desplanche
 Devotional: *Pieces* by Captain Isabella Green

Craft: *You are Loved Heart* by Captain Serina Woods

Check out our Playlist of songs that speak of our identity in Christ:

WM 2024-2025

Priceless: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7xLxDn8lLdAq4je3D5L4YK?si=547054ac7309495c>



God's Word is full of declaration of His love to you!

Flourishing in the Word

God is love and all He does is love. This month spend time reading about the wonderful loving God we have. As you read the Scripture passages, focus on what it says about God's love for you.

Feb 1	Psalm 25:1-22	Feb 15	Jeremiah 31:1-14
Feb 2	Psalm 31:1-24	Feb 16	Lamentations 3:19-33
Feb 3	Psalm 33:1-22	Feb 17	Hosea 1:1-11
Feb 4	Psalm 36:1-12	Feb 18	Hosea 2:1-3:5
Feb 5	Psalm 42:1-11	Feb 19	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Feb 6	Psalm 51:1-12	Feb 20	John 3:1-21
Feb 7	Psalm 59:1-17	Feb 21	John 14:15-31
Feb 8	Psalm 86:1-17	Feb 22	Romans 5:1-11
Feb 9	Psalm 89:1-18	Feb 23	Romans 8:31-39
Feb 10	Psalm 103:1-22	Feb 24	Ephesians 1:3-14
Feb 11	Psalm 136:1-26	Feb 25	Ephesians 3:14-21
Feb 12	Psalm 145:1-21	Feb 26	Ephesians 5:21-33
Feb 13	Isaiah 43:1-13	Feb 27	Hebrews 12:1-13
Feb 14	Isaiah 54:1-17	Feb 28	1 John 4:7-21

Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

Chula Vista, CA held a fundraiser with a "Flamingo" theme.

Clovis, NM every week organizes the weekly Sunday after church lunch for the congregation.

Concord, CA embarked on a series of programs and Bible studies to help them learn about the Holy Spirit's roles in their lives, including a Spiritual Gift assessment and a class on how to use their spiritual gifts.

Las Vegas, NV women reach out to one another through prayer chain phone messages.

Ontario, CA had a paint program where they learned how God paints each of our stories.

Petaluma, CA started a walking club.

Phoenix Citadel, AZ older teen girls have been teaching/mentoring the younger girls.

Prescott, AZ has studied through the books of Ephesians and Jonah, and will be starting a study on Elijah.

San Diego Centre City, CA distributed "Life Giving Water" to those on the sidewalks in and in the community around the Corps.

“You are Loved” Refrain

A refrain (or chorus) is a regularly recurring phrase or verse especially at the end of each stanza or division of a poem or song. It is that bit of the song that is repeated several times, after each verse. In Psalm 136, you will read a beautiful refrain or chorus 26 times. In each of the twenty-six verses, the psalmist declares the refrain, ***His love endures forever***. In the NIV the phrase “his love endures forever” appears a total of 43 times (1 Chronicles 16:34, 41, 2 Chronicles 5:13, 2 Chronicles 7:3, 6, 20:21, Ezra 3:11, Psalm 100:5, 106:1, 107:1, 117:2, 118:1-4, 29, 136:1-26 and Jeremiah 33:11). That is a lot of times to repeat a refrain.



Why is it repeated so much? Repetition emphasizes importance, and the more we repeat it, the more likely we are to remember it. God wants us to know without a doubt that we are loved, and His love is going to last forever. He will never stop being a God who loves.

Perhaps we should take a lesson from Scripture, and make “His love for me endures forever” a daily refrain. What is something that you do often? Link that activity with reminding yourself that you are loved dearly by God.

Every time you pick up your phone, say “His love endures forever” to yourself. Personalize it, and say “God’s love for me endures forever” or “I am forever loved by God.” Every time you get into your car, sing the refrain of God’s love for you in your mind. Every time I look at my e-mail, I will tell myself “God’s love for me endures forever.” Will you make God’s love the refrain of your day?

“And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.” Ephesians 3:18 NLT



Identity Statements

You are loved! Here are some identity statements for you to claim, memorize and meditate on.

The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” Jeremiah 31:3

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39