



Part 4 | Awakening to Love: God Loves Me Deeply After All

We like to showcase our successes in life and hide our failures. No one brags about their divorce, bankruptcy, incarceration, DUI, abortion, or addiction. These failures create shame and we begin to label ourselves by them. Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son is a powerful lesson in the new identity that God offers us by his love and grace. When we finally understand that God's love and grace are real - really real - it will change us and lead us into a relationship with him.

Bottom Line: God's love overpowers sin and brings new life.

Discussion Questions

1. Share about a time when you strongly felt the love of God. What was the circumstance? What was your reaction?
2. Read Luke 15:20-24. How many signs of the father's love can you identify? What was the father trying to communicate to the son? What is the Father communicating to you?
3. Read Romans 8:1-2, 31-39.
 - a. Identify words or phrases from this passage revealing that God's love is *effective*, eliminating every last bit of condemnation (vv. 31-34).
 - b. Identify words or phrases from this passage revealing that God's love is *permanent*, resisting anything that might try to separate you from it (vv. 35-39).
 - c. How does God's effective and permanent love make you feel? How does his love give you confidence to trust him?
4. What are the kinds of situations that trigger your doubts about God's love for you? When you experience those situations, what verse(s) in the Bible could you use to remind yourself of God's free gift of love toward you?
5. What do you learn about yourself from the following verses? 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 1:21-22 & 3:2-4, 12; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Galatians 2:20. What encouragement do you draw from them? Which truth is the hardest for you to accept? Why?
6. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
7. How can the group encourage you this week?