

# Glory to God!



To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable in others because Christ has forgiven the inexcusable in us.

C. S. Lewis

By mercy and truth, iniquity is purged, & by fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

\*Proverbs.16:6\*\*
... You will find me when you seek me with all your heart.. Jer. 29:13\*\*



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**Our God Reigns** 

### An UnCommon Love

I discovered recently that there's going to be a lot of love in the "last days." 1 It was shocking! But...it's not a good kind. People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, lovers of pleasure, but *not* lovers of good or lovers of God. They also are without natural affection of family or children.

Thru entertainment, TV & everyday culture, society has clouded this topic reducing love to where it is only deemed as physical. The result is it's become common, which means without 'ordinary, special rank, showing a lack of refinement; vulgar.'

It doesn't help that TV and entertainment casts love most often in a romantic setting.

Everyone naturally looks for love from childhood up. We are social beings by design. But because of our failure to understand that there are different kinds of love, our children become confused... because we're confused! Scripture savs there are different kinds of love starting with family love, tender affection for friends. and also the love of God. Meantime, the world conveys erotic kind of love as the main objective in life! Even in Ads!

I've experienced this distortion personally, living in a loveless home. But if we learn the boundaries each kind of love owns, we can find real fulfillment. I have.

Due to our confusion, many times we unwittingly come across to others as "needy", repelling instead of attracting others. People are naturally attracted to others who are confident & decisive. We mature by getting out of that "it's all about me" rut to discover that other people are actually interesting! Usually.

For example: I used to take a cherry pie to new neighbors

A friend who observed this said, "No one has ever brought *me* a cherry pie." How many had she hand -delivered? Her thinking was only inward here.

Studies show the simple act of expressing gratitude towards people whom you love will generate a spike in happiness for them. So...

An uncommon love is always about someone else ....more than self, yet reaps endless benefits to the giver.

An uncommon love lacks ulterior motives. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you..."2

It seems the world often wants to cheapen high morals, and to coarsen love. NAMBLA, North American Man Boy Love Association is a group who's worked to make sex between men and boys lawful in the past 20+ years. Even the American Psychiatry Association has at times come along side them to push for it. This week, I read that far left gays are doing the same...including all children. Talk about cheapen.

I had the privilege of holding a newborn during the holidays. Hearing her sighs & coos next to my ear, there was nothing that expressed it for us ...except 'precious.'

Yet - another word struck my heart as well. *Innocent!* Her little ears still virgin to coarse talk. Her little eyes fixated on her mother - - who had **milk**, by the way.

Uncommon love is holy.

Society has become so jaded, we must now look for innocence – (perhaps I held the only innocence in the world *in my arms*. When I held her, I felt close to God).

Uncommon love isn't natural - it's **super**natural. It surpasses natural ability or design. It flows thru us, not from us, as mere vessels of it.

Uncommon love is elusive.
C. S. Lewis explains this: "Human History is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy." So... it is elusive due to our own resistance! It's difficult to find, catch or achieve. It saddens me that some never find it, for looking in all the wrong places.

It isn't found on match.com or in new neighbors or sports bars. Not in support groups, and not in many churches!

Uncommon love is a Pursuer. Wait...! You just said it was elusive! Yes. But... Uncommon love has been called the Hound Of Heaven-because it is a person! God is love... It will hunt you down. Question is, will you humble yourself like a little child to receive that pure love...? Read my book – He would not let me go!

Uncommon love is tender.

Jesus called God 'Father' and He preceded it by 'Our...'

We're family! In Aramaic,
Jesus own tongue, God's name is Abba, or 'Daddy.'3

He works tenderly to bring us to repentance — so we can enjoy fellowship with Him.

Uncommon love is awesome...! In Matt. 22:36 (my paraphase) Jesus said that Loving the Lord and Loving our neighbor fulfilled the whole law.4 A story in Acts tells of people who did love, enough to graciously fund the new church in Jerusalem. Only, they lied about the amount given. God's response? 'Love that doesn't obey, isn't real love. They died on the spot.5

Uncommon love cherishes truth. The acid test of love is "it rejoices in truth." 6 If you don't prize truth?... You don't love God! Jesus said to God, "Thy word is truth." 7 So, keep yourself IN the love of God." 8

## When life isn't a bed of roses, remember who wore the thorns



The most powerful weapon in the world is

#### **TRUTH**

Ravi Zacharias

Two percent of the people think; 3 percent think they think, and 95 percent would rather die than think.

Henry Ford

References: 1) II Tim.3:1-5 2)Luke 6:31 3) Mark 14:36 4)Luke 10:27 5)Acts 5:1-6 6)I Cor. 13:6 7)John 17:17 8) Jude 1:21 9) Matt. 5:3 10)John 4:24 11) 2Cor.5:19 12) I Pet.1:16.13) Rom. 8:14



Judicial Watch reports that Middle East Jihadists have been flying into Monterey, Mx. and meeting with cartels (for \$50k each) to get across border to U.S. Prior to entering, They also have a training area about 100 miles south of Tx. They are just waiting for the signal to attack ports of entry and large cities. You won't hear this from news media they're busy covering Code Pink protestors dressed in KKK garb and fake news! ...Pray against all violence!

### **A Loveless Creature**

This has not been a normal week. I had the opportunity to see myself in the natural....as opposed to the spiritual. Oh I've seen it before, but I guess I needed a reminder. And, I'm glad to have it!

So I'm writing this article called UnCommon Love, not really knowing what God wants me to say. I had occasion to aid a needy neighbor, with a friend, in hanging a very heavy mirror in her apartment.. I felt grumpy about it (not her) tho we do this often, but I felt it was a man's job & difficult. My grumpiness came out in whining and smart alec remarks. I hurt my dear friend's feelings

We got the job done and moved a big rug as well. As I later reflected on my nastiness, I realized something I already knew.

Apart from God, I know that I am a *loveless creature*. It's always been true! Love doesn't come naturally to me. We can all blame my background for it, but no matter – It is what it is!

I'm okay with it because this helps me in knowing how impoverished I am without God. "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." 9 I know I have nothing to give people!

So whatever I give has to be God Himself...daily, hourly and minutely too. Like the Apostle Paul in Phil. 3:2-3, I put absolutely no confidence in my flesh –self - but all my confidence is in the Holy Spirit! *That works for me!* Better, it works for God for He gets all the glory. Not me. I want it no other way.

The Apostle Paul also said in the same passage that true believers worship by the Spirit of God, & they glory in *Christ*.

Thus, it's essential that worship be a spiritual endeavor...10 not just a few songs and rituals spoken. And not just entertainment.! The central focal point need always be Jesus Christ and His work, not to mention His deity! God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.11

The problem with today's churches are too many programs, too many works without Holy Spirit inspiration, and little consideration for the need for Holy Spirit direction.

Every New Year, we're all given a fresh start, a second chance. A new beginning. Your attitude will determine your altifude-in life & with God The right attitude begins with gratitude for what you have...

Don't reject the Holy Spirit that can make you Godly. "Be Holy for I am holy."12

## Oh, Me. Oh, My. Oh, I...

Dear Agatha: Can you explain to me why it is that Paul sounds so weak (just like us!) in Romans 7<sup>th</sup> chapter, but much stronger in Romans 8<sup>th</sup> chapter? It's isn't very inspiring because it almost sounds like he's wallowing there. Cindy.

Dear Cindy: Surely this is the most misunderstood passage in all of Paul's letters. Let me say the obvious - this letter is not written in chapters! But for the sake of this discussion, I will use it in this way.

Chapter 7 is a teaching tool that both Paul & Jesus used (See Luke 13 for Jesus) Secular historian Josephus points this out. It's called 'repetition.' In chapter-7, 35 pronouns of **I, Me**, and **My** appear. When Paul says "what I would do, I don't &

what I don't want to do, I dohe's merely demonstrating the total inadequacy in living in the flesh – of <u>self!</u> And he points out vividly that 'when I would do good, evil is always present.' Make note of *that* point.-You'll get resistance too

So we must learn to resist that evil effectively! Evil has come for <u>no thing except</u> to steal, kill and destroy – you and yours. Christianity is not passive non-resistance! You have the victory! Know it...!

Your answer is found in Romans 8<sup>th</sup> chapter!

"Therefore, there is no condemnation to those who walk in the Spirit and **not** in the flesh." Thus begins his discussion of the Holy Spirit's power in our lives - 16 times He's mentioned. **Life** is in the Spirit; & **Death** is in the flesh!

If you are living a life with little victory, praise or thanksgiving - then pitch your tent in Romans 8th chapter and camp there. Too many have camped for decades in Rom. 7 in defeat (excusing such failure in ignorance that Paul wrote it!) You will learn to depend upon the Spirit's guidance, hour by hour, and moment by moment. It defines us - 'as many are led of the Spirit are the sons of God.'13

More, all of <u>creation</u> groans for that kind of Spirit-led man, waiting for their redemption! <u>We</u> groan. The <u>Spirit</u> groans... 3 times in Romans 8! Are *you* one of them, Cindy? I want to be! My heart is broken for broken people.



Not only is my short-term memory horrible, but so is my short term memory.

