

**God's Love**  
**Rodolfo Rodriguez**  
**Feb 1 2009**

Good morning my dear and patient brothers and sisters.

Today we are not going to begin the sermon laughing at our troubled brothers' expenses nor end it crying at the preacher's expense, ok?

We'll begin with the story of a young man that had decided to give up on his marriage, to leave his wife and little daughter and to move to a distant city and start a new life.

For months, the couple had been arguing, frequently, so the wife had mixed emotions: On one hand, the absence of the husband would definitely bring her peace, emotional relief and freedom to make her own decisions. On the other hand the thoughts of her daughter growing without a dad, of them two ladies being alone, of failing in marriage, etc were tormenting her.

The wife and daughter had tried to talk him into staying but had resigned as the weeks went by and their efforts were fruitless. The more they tried the more stubborn and arrogant he became. And as the quote says

**“Arrogance is a kind of blindness.”**

He had blamed all on his wife and he was planning to take care of them in spite of that, so in his mind, he was not only free of guilt but a generous man...

As he was unsuccessfully trying to fit the last few things in the car and minutes away from beginning his journey, the little girl walked to him and gave him a little box and told him “this is for you daddy.”

Impatiently, he made a pause in his ordeal in order to open the box. When he saw it was empty he got furious, told her she should never give empty presents and sent her to her room.

She immediately obeyed but after a few steps, she turned around with her eyes full of tears and said “but daddy, it is not empty, it is full of kisses! I put them all inside, for you!” and ran to her room, unjustly punished and crying.

He felt like he was going to die... as miserable as one can feel, but as the song says and as most guys function, unfortunately:

**“...You watched her go  
Your reaction is far too slow**

*Runaround*

*Runaround*

*Runaround*

**You don't know what you've got until you've lost it all  
Might I suggest you find a softer place to fall...”**

When he finally reacted, after seconds that seemed an eternity, he went running after her, as humble as a man can be, and embraced her.

And, with tears in his eyes, begged for forgiveness.

Not only did the man kept the box for many years but he never left home.

A box full of invisible kisses changed his life forever and his family's life as well.

Such is the power of true love...

Each of us has received a box full of unconditional love and kisses from a kid or from a relative or from a friend or from more than one source. Perhaps that is the most precious possession we can have here on earth, the love of others...

Recently, we went through the following analysis, the ten commandments down to the two commandments down to one word, remember?

Here is a short version of it:

**Matthew 22:36-40**

**“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets.*”**

**Galatians 5:14**

**“For all the law is fulfilled in **one word**, even in this: You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.”**

**Galatians 5:14a**

**“For all the law is fulfilled in **one word**...”**

## **Love**

In that occasion we were analyzing human love, as the greatest commandment, to love God and to love others. In the story we saw an example of what the love to others can make in their lives and in ours as well.

Likewise, our love to God is not only for His glory but for our benefit as well. Everything we do, good or bad, has a consequence, a result, an effect. Arrogance is a kind of blindness, and by looking for our own benefits, we often don't see, much less obtain, the greater benefits intended by our God.

Last week we asked ourselves how God would answer the prayer that Jesus used to explain his disciples how to pray, let's do it one more time:

Let's pray first:

“Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,  
As we forget our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen”

Now let’s revisit our findings, trying to see the potential results, effects, consequences and benefits of our obedience...

**My son, who are on earth and feel worried, confused, disoriented,  
lonely, sad and distressed,**

**I perfectly know your name and I pronounce it with blessing,  
because I love you, which is to say, I accept you as you have been**

**Together we shall built my Kingdom, of which you are my heir and  
in it you will not be alone because I am in you, as you are in Me.**

**I wish that you always do My will, because My will is that you are  
humanly happy.**

**You will have your daily bread today, do not worry.  
But remember, it is not only yours, I ask you to always share it  
with others, I give it to you because I know that you know that it is  
for you and all of your brothers...**

**I always forgive all of your debts, more even, I exonerate you, for  
even before you commit them, I know you will commit them, but I  
also know that sometimes it is the only way you have to learn, to  
grow and to identify with Me, which is your vocation...**

**I only ask that, in the same way, you forgive yourself and you  
forgive your debtors...  
I know you will face temptations and I am sure you will come out  
on top...**

**Seize My hand, and hold on to Me, I will give you discernment so  
you can realize that, since a long time ago, and always, I have  
given you strength so you can deliver yourself from the evil one...**

**Never forget that I LOVE YOU from before the beginning of your days, and that I WILL LOVE YOU until after they end, because I AM IN YOU...AS YOU ARE IN ME...**

**That My blessing be with you from ever and forever and that My eternal peace and love always cover you...**

**Only from Me could you obtain them  
And only I could give them to you, my son, because...  
I AM THE LOVE AND THE PEACE!**

**AMEN**

For us to love God and to love others are commandments, something we must learn how to do and something that might become the most precious thing in other's life. A box of unconditional love and kisses.

The love of God, however is in His essence and beyond our knowledge. The more we love God and others the more his love dwells in us and the more we can understand it:

**1 John 4 15-16**

**Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**

**Ephesians 3:17-19**

**That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**

**Jeremiah 31:34**

**No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more**

**GOD LOVES YOU, LET HIS LOVE DWELL IN YOU, FLOW THROUGH YOU, TRANSCEND IN YOU**

Last week, as I was finishing my speech, I ran aground, like the man in our history and felt really miserable. But instead of receiving judgment and disapproval from you, I received encouragement and sympathy. A box full of love. I felt humble but grateful.

I remembered the quote I used on mother's day:

**“Love me more when I deserve it the least because that's when I need it the most”**

Love is powerful my dear brothers and sisters, do love your God above all things and do love your neighbors as you love yourselves.

In closing, I want to remind you all that:

We are all sinners:

**Romans 3:23**

**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

God loves us:

**Romans 5:8**

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

**John 3:16**

**“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

**John 15:13**

**“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”**

God has a remedy:

**Romans 6:23**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Romans 10:9**

**That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved**

And last but not least, God has an insurance policy:

**Romans 8 38-39**

**“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

**Revelations 12:10**

**Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down...”**

Let’s pray,

God we thank you for Your mercy and for Your love and for everything You send into our lives. We ask that you help us see, understand and follow the path you have for each of us. We ask that you help us fulfill your commandments of loving you above everything and others as ourselves. We leave our worries, problems and concerns in Your hands and ask you to use them for Your glory. We thank and pray in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior, amen.