



CHRISTIAN CENTER

Risky Love

Part 2
February 21, 2021

Pastor Brian Gobar



I. INTRO/REVIEW

A. Love is risky because it carries the weight of responsibility

1 John 4:11 (NKJV) Beloved, if God so loved us ... we also ought to love one another

John 1:12 (NIV) ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

B. We are children of God

C. With growth and maturity comes responsibility

D. Jesus said I've given you the Keys of the kingdom – authority and responsibility

- Keys give both authority and responsibility

Age doesn't mature us, age makes us older. Accepting and handling responsibility is what matures us

II. SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD

A. Jesus illustrates two kinds of love

Matthew 5:43 (NKJV) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

- Tax collector love

Matthew 5:46-47 (NKJV) ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

B. You need to know and believe that there's an alternative to tax collector love

Matthew 5:44-45, 48 (NKJV) ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust ⁴⁸Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Galatians 5:6 (NIRV) Circumcision and uncircumcision aren't worth anything to those who believe in Christ Jesus. The only thing that really counts is faith that shows itself through love.

- Our faith is energized through God's love for us, not our love for Him

Ephesians 3:18-20 (NASB) ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

- Our faith is energized when we realize how much we are loved by God:

Romans 8:31-39 (TPT) ³¹So, what does all this mean? If God has determined to stand with us, tell me, who then could ever stand against us? ³²For God has proved his love by giving us his greatest treasure, the gift of his Son. And since God freely offered him up as the sacrifice for us all, he certainly won't withhold from us anything else he has to give. ³³Who then would dare to accuse those whom God has chosen in love to be his? God himself is the judge who has issued his final verdict over them— "Not guilty!" ³⁴Who then is left to condemn us? Certainly not Jesus, the Anointed One! For he gave his life for us, and even more than that, he has conquered death and is now risen, exalted, and enthroned by God at his right hand. So how could he possibly condemn us since he is



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continually praying *for our triumph*? ³⁵ Who could ever separate us from the endless love of God's Anointed One? *Absolutely no one!* For nothing in the universe has the power to diminish his love toward us. Troubles, pressures, and problems are unable to come between us and heaven's love. What about persecutions, deprivations, dangers, and death threats? No, for they are all impotent to hinder omnipotent love, ³⁶ even though it is written: All day long we face death threats for your sake, God. We are considered to be nothing more than sheep to be slaughtered!

Romans 8:37-39 (TPT) ³⁷ Yet even in the midst of all these things, we triumph over them all, for God has made us to be more than conquerors, and his demonstrated love is our glorious victory over everything! ³⁸ So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God's love. I'm convinced that his love will triumph over death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. ³⁹ There is no power above us or beneath us—no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One!

Romans 5:5 (NIV) ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

III. BLESS

A. Love, bless, do good and pray

Matthew 5:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

B. Preaching Christ and bringing joy

Acts 8:5, 8 (NKJV) ⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.

B. B.L.E.S.S

- **Begin with prayer**
- **L – Listen**
 - **The 3 "Nots"**
 - **It's not going well**
 - **Not prepared for something**
 - **Not in church**
- **Eat**
- **Serve**
- **Story**

Matthew 5:14-16 (MESSAGE) ¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.