

January 8, 2020

## The Love of God-Part 1

Numbers 14:18 The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Slow to anger...oh boy, not a quality that very many of us tend to have in our repertoire. The word translated from Hebrew literally means long-suffering. The opposite is having a short fuse! What does it take to set you off? Someone's snarky reply; a look of disdain from a co-worker; a shrug of the shoulders and a roll of the eyes from your spouse?

Why do we tend to have such short fuses? I believe it's because we are used to living for ourselves and anything that causes us to have to give or serve or put ourselves last instead of first, really bothers us. When we look at the love of God, it is a perfect picture of true unconditional love. He doesn't treat us as we deserve. He doesn't push us away or hold us at arm's length. Instead, he is so very long-suffering. He is patient. He is kind. He does not repay us for evil. He is LOVE.

Abounding in love....it truly means overflowing with love. Love that is continual and never stops. We tend to use our love as something we can give and take away. That is not God's love. His love is everlasting, eternal, and perfect.

What if we started loving each other as God has loved us? I believe we would begin to see people being touched, being reached, being moved by His amazing love.

Forgiving sin and rebellion....in 1 Cor. 13:5, it says that love keeps no records of wrongs. This comes from the Greek term *logiaomai*, which is a term in bookkeeping that means to count up and desire to settle the account; keeping score. Are we keeping score with others or are we like our Heavenly Father, erasing the debts away completely! If we want to love others like God loves us, we must, as one writer put it: Love as though we've never been hurt.

Dear Lord, help me to be slow to anger instead of having a quick fuse. Help me to be patient and overflowing with Your love. Help me to be forgiving and not holding grudges against others who have hurt me or my family. Lord, please give me Your love, in Jesus Name, Amen