

Love of Others

We were a little concerned when my second granddaughter was born, six weeks ago. My son and his wife already had a 15-month old little girl, Abigail, when Annabelle was born into the family. Would the older child become jealous of the attention the newborn would receive? That question was answered very quickly. We brought Abigail to the hospital to see her younger sister. During that visit a nurse came into the hospital room to give the younger Annabelle a bath. The baby instinctively cried loudly. Abigail broke into tears when she saw her younger sister crying. She loved her new baby sister and wanted to see her happy.



A month later both children were visiting our house. Abigail was tired from a morning at preschool so she sought the comfort of a pacifier. Moments later the younger Annabelle started crying, as all babies do. Immediately, Abigail went over to her younger sister, lovingly patted her on the head and then gave her the pacifier out of her own mouth. It was a heartwarming, spontaneous act of love.

Abigail has grown up in an environment of love, starting with her parents and extending through both sides of the family – grandparents, aunts and uncles. As a result, she is a happy child with an engaging smile and a big heart. Knowing the adjustment the older child would face there has been an intentional effort to make sure that she receives plenty of interaction from loving adults, and wouldn't become jealous of the newborn's need for attention. She has responded extremely well. Abigail was never at a loss for feeling loved, and because of that she acts lovingly towards her younger sister.

Our Heavenly Father gives us full attention as well. He is always there to listen to us. He places people in our lives who share God's love with us – people who would share whatever they have with us, just as Abigail was willing to share her pacifier with her younger sister. It is obvious that God loves us deeply because He has blessed us richly.

So, how about you? While life is not perfect you have been unbelievably blessed. Has God placed you where you can be a blessing to others, sharing God's love? Love is the greatest commandment of all, and it enables us to care for others. *We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).*

God's love is sacrificial. He sacrificed His son out of love for us. *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).* Remember the pacifier that was needed by Abigail? The pacifier was a comfort to Abigail but she felt her younger sister needed it more. We do what we can to help others because of God's love for us. It is also our way of showing our love to God when we love ourselves, and then can love others. Everything we do is based on love.

What better example of human love is there than the innocent expression of one loving child to another? And it is all because of God's love for all of us.

Scripture: *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments'" (Matthew 22:36-40).*

Question: Name some ways you can share God's love with other people.

Prayer: Most gracious Heavenly Father. Because you have loved and sacrificed for us we can do the same for others. It is the greatest act of caring we can do. Amen.