

Loving Parents

Our extended family is going through a wonderful transition. Both of our sons and their wives have recently become first-time parents. Year old Jude and two-month old Abigail are beautiful children who bring much joy to all of us. We love their smiles and how they react to us. But, they are very young children. Crying is their natural way of communicating when they need something. Guess what it is and they stop crying. Crying is difficult for me to handle. I do my best but may not be successful in stopping the crying. I find it amazing how parents take crying in stride, and know just what the child needs. They exhibit amazing patience, a key characteristic of a loving parent. Their patience is rooted in love for their child.

Once a child comes into the family, life changes dramatically for the parents. When they were married with no children they could direct their attention to other things. Now, a significant portion of their lives centers on caring for their child. Hours are spent holding a sleeping child or trying to get it to sleep. Parents also play with or read to their child, building the special bond that only one-on-one attention can create. I am amazed at what wonderful parents my sons and their wives are. Being responsible for the life of another is a big responsibility. As the child grows the interaction of parent and child will change, but the unconditional love will never change.



In Genesis, God created mankind on the *sixth* day, creating man in God's image. God created the environment first, and *then* brought man into the picture. Just like a parent's world changes when children join the family, God's world and responsibilities changed dramatically, too. God nurtured mankind, guided and provided for our needs – all done through His deep, unconditional love for His children.

So what does God receive as a result of his efforts? People have a “mind of their own,” not always doing what God wants. Yet God is patient, forgiving and fully devoted to His children. God knows what is best for His children, and He has plans for their future. Sound familiar? Earthly parents have the same for their children.

God is the perfect example of a loving parent, providing what we need, and providing a path for a wonderful life. Our Heavenly Father continually shows His unending, unconditional love for us every day. He is the perfect example.



Scripture: *Love is patient, love is kind. ... it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 paraphrased).*

Question: In what ways does God show His patience and unconditional love for you?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for your understanding and your love for us. You know what we need. Guide us towards the future you have planned for us. Amen.