

See People As the Lord Sees People

Parents have a special love for their children. Because parenting is a 24/7 responsibility they know what their children are like and what makes them happy. Even though their children are far from perfect, parents love them unconditionally.

Parents sacrifice a great deal for their children – time, money and the last piece of pie. As the child goes through the usual stages of life, parents know there may be times of rebellion and their son or daughter may stray from the path hoped for. Still, unconditional love and the hope for better times remain.

In an even more pure sense, that is how God looks at us. He loves us unconditionally, through good times and bad. God has hopes and plans for us, even when we stray from the path God intended for us. When it comes to sacrifice, He sacrificed much more than a piece of pie. God sacrificed His son so that we could have forgiveness of our sins and live eternally.

There is another dimension to this discussion. How do we see people outside our family? Do we see people as our adversaries? Do we think less of others when they go through times of confusion and rebellion? Do we dislike them because they are different from us? The real question is: how do you think God looks at people during their times of struggle? Can we take God's perspective and love others during these times?

God's measure of a person is perfection – something impossible for any of us this side of heaven. That's where God's love is so important, as Jesus' sacrifice made believers perfect in God's eyes. We are all sinners, but God has compassion for everyone and still loves us. So we should be compassionate too. When God looks at people, every one was worth dying for. That's how passionate He is about all people.

This week make a conscious effort to see people as you think God sees them. God forgives. He knows their potential. God sees people as they can be, not as they are today. Pray for others who are struggling and be a friend and share in their burdens. Affirm people. That will help others strive to live up to an even better potential. Pray for them – not to be what you want them to be, but for them to be what God has prepared them to be. We are all a "work in progress." God doesn't reach a conclusion about a person until their life is finished. It is never our place to judge a person, because we are not part of their last conversation with God. Just know that God is optimistic about the potential of a person. We should view people as God does – look for the good, be forgiving and share in the hope for better times as a child of God.

Scriptures:

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

As you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many (2 Corinthians 1:11).

Question: Are you willing to pray for others, asking God to be part of their lives so that others would seek to be what God wants them to be?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We are all a work in progress. You see our faults and you celebrate our triumphs. Let us see the good in others and know that you love all the people of your creation. Amen.