

Victory Over Sin Series
Lesson 2 - Is God's Love Conditional or Unconditional?
Sermon Bible Notes by O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

What separates us from God?

Isaiah 59:1-2

- 1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
- 2 But your **iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you**, that he will not hear.

Proverbs 15:29

29 The LORD *is* far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Remember, SIN is the cancer that separates man from a loving God. **It is the Love of God that is clearly revealed through the ministry and blood of Jesus Christ. The cross of Christ is the bridge that connects us to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.**

Is God's Love toward us conditional or unconditional?

Unconditional - Without conditions or limitations; - freedictionary.com

Conditional – Depending on conditions

Many people say God's love is "unconditional" without any conditions or limitations. It is true that God's love all people but he hates sin. According to the everlasting covenant, the **ONLY** way for man to know and experience His Love for us is that conditions of the everlasting covenant had to be fulfilled.

The everlasting covenant is God's promise and contract with man to save us from sin which is made available to ALL people.

All contracts have conditions that must be met in order to fulfill it's purpose. For example, all mortgage loans have contracts in which that lender agrees to provide the loan money for the borrower who requested and qualified for the loan to buy a house. The borrower and lender agree to the conditions of the loan. The borrower agrees to repay the lender a certain amount of the loan plus interest each month. **The lender's contract is not unconditional**, if the borrower fails to meet the conditions of the loan and does not repay each month as promised the borrower will default on the loan and lose the house. The same is true for a car loan. If the borrower fails to repay the car loan, it will be reposed. **Have you ever heard of an unconditional car loan contract?** "Just pay it when you feel like it" or "don't worry about paying it back at all." NO. Listen. **A contract would not be a contract if there were no conditions of the contract in order to fulfill it's purpose.**

The everlasting covenant is God's love revealed to us through Jesus Christ. Without the condition of the blood spilled for our sins, we would have never known God nor the love of God. We would have had no way of being connected to the love of God and His love being duplicated in us. Jesus

is the payment for the penalty of eternal death for our sins. He paid the price of the everlasting covenant!

God's standard of his love and everlasting covenant to save us cannot and will not change. He manifested his love to save us through the blood of Jesus Christ.

What does that Bible say about this "Conditional" Love revealed in the everlasting covenant?

John 3:16-17

- 16 For **God so loved the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**
- 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved.**

1 John 4:9-10

- 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**
- 10 **Herein is love**, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Titus 3:3-7

- 3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.
- 4 But after that the **kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,**
- 5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**
- 6 **Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;**
- 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Without the blood of Jesus Christ as payment for our sins the everlasting covenant could not exist. Praise the Lord, Jesus fulfilled his end of the everlasting covenant and the love of God to bring us back to God. We now have access to become citizens of the everlasting kingdom of God.

Ephesians 1:7-8

- 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- 8 **Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;**

Are you still an alien? We are not talking about the fictional space aliens that are portrayed in movies.

Ephesians 2:12-13

- 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope, and without God in the world:
- 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Alien (Greek) apallotrioo [ap-al-lot-ree-o'-o]

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to alienate, estrange
- 2) to be shut out from one's fellowship and intimacy

Is Roman 8:35 – 39 talking about “unconditional” love?

Let's read the full context starting with verse 31

Romans 8:31-39

- 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?
- 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
- 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.
- 34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
- 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
- 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the context of Roman 8:35 – 39 it is referring to God's faithful who have turned from sin and are cleansed through the blood of Christ. Here, He gives the faithful words of encouragement and inspiration. He wants to give His faithful assurance that His love will never fail them even in the midst of persecution or death. God's love will give us power to overcome the enemy and be victorious in the end. God is saying to His faithful that there is no one that will be able to cut off the presence of God's love from His people.

Romans 8:35 – 39 is not talking about an “unconditional” love, but a perfect love that fulfills the conditions of the everlasting covenant through Jesus Christ!

Also, God's love never separates us from the Saviour who is ever present to lift us up from sin.

God's love is conditional – Jesus had to die so we can live. If unconditional love was enough then Jesus did not have to die for our sins.

Satan has deceived many people and put into the minds of the unconverted that God's love is unconditional. The evil master mind wants people to believe that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was not necessary and that God will reward the disobedient regardless of what they have done. He wants them to believe that God will not destroy the wicked because of “unconditional love.”

The concept of “unconditional love” was made popular by humanist psychologist founder, Abraham Maslow. (Humanism is a belief that God does not exist and that humans have the solution to our problems. Over the years many modern churches have adopted a form of humanism known as Christian Humanism.) He was an atheist who made the concept “self-esteem” very popular. His theories of “unconditional love” are in university textbooks and taught in thousands of schools in courses such as psychology and social work. At least one of the two courses is an undergraduate requirement for graduation regardless of major in many “Christian” and secular schools. This includes SDA universities such as Oakwood U, Andrews U, and Southern Adventist U. Millions of minds have been impressed by Satan’s concept of “unconditional love” that may look good on paper but has a sinister purpose of undermining the true Love of God. Over time the concept of “unconditional love” has been adopted by many churches and misapplied to God’s love.

When many people use the term that God’s love is “unconditional,” they are saying consciously or ignorantly that God’s love will look past the wickedness of man, excuse their sin and accept them in the heavenly kingdom with no change. The theory that God accepts man “unconditionally” in their sin is not Biblical. **The term “unconditional love” is not found in the Bible nor the Spirit of Prophecy.**

It is true that Jesus wants us to come to Him all broken in sin, but we are to leave changed as a new creature in Christ Jesus. All things are made new in our lives. Acknowledging and professing God’s love is NOT enough. A metamorphosis must take place in your life!

Unconditional Pardon?

The reality is that many people do not want to confess their sins and to turn from sin. They want God to accept them in their corrupt condition without overcoming sin and still be saved. The reality is that what they really want is “unconditional” pardon.

Powerful Quote!

“Satan deceives many with the plausible theory that God’s love for His people is so great that He will excuse sin in them; he represents that while the threatenings of God’s word are to serve a certain purpose in His moral government, they are never to be literally fulfilled. But in all His dealings with his creatures God has maintained the principles of righteousness by revealing sin in its true character--by demonstrating that its sure result is misery and death. The unconditional pardon of sin never has been, and never will be. Such pardon would show the abandonment of the principles of righteousness, which are the very foundation of the government of God. It would fill the unfallen universe with consternation. God has faithfully pointed out the results of sin, and if these warnings were not true, how could we be sure that His promises would be fulfilled? That so-called benevolence which would set aside justice is not benevolence but weakness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, Ellen G White, p. 523

Remember, God loves all men, but he hates sin. God’s love does not excuse sin. He wants us to turn from ALL sin.

Ezekiel 14:6 - 8

- 6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Repent, and turn yourselves** from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.
- 7 For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock

of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself:

8 And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 18:30 - 32

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn *yourselves* from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

31 **Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?**

32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn *yourselves*, and live ye.

Perfect Love keeps the commandments of God

God's Love is a perfect love that must be duplicated in the lives of the faithful people of God who have turned from sin and keep ALL the commandments of God.

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

John 15:9-11

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

1 John 2:2-5

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the **love of God perfected**: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 John 4:15-19

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 **Herein is our love made perfect**, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.