

We Love Him Because He First Loved Us

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of April 27, 2019.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—As many Church of God congregations approached the spring feast days, I began a series of six articles discussing principles that can be rehearsed at this time of year.

Here is the list of articles in this series that have been written.

- March 23—"Overview of Passover in Book of Exodus."
- March 30—"The Night in Which He Was Betrayed."
- April 6—"Do This in Remembrance of Me."
- April 13—"Are You Worthy?"
- April 20—"Reaction to Grace"
- April 27—"We Love Him Because He First Loved Us"

Transition from last week

In last week's article, I concluded with the following two paragraphs.

"The spring feast days are a yearly reminder about the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord. Thank God for truth about God's grace.

"As you observe the Days of Unleavened bread, allow that appreciation for God's grace to remind you about the various expectations that your Heavenly Father has of you."

Father analogy doesn't help everyone

By now, people who read my articles know that I regularly mention that a disciple should view God as a father figure. To me, that is the picture that can best help us in our relationship with Him.

However, you and I are aware that a wonderful depiction does not work the same for everyone. You can recognize some of the obvious challenges of seeking to have physical fathers picture a perfect God.

- Some fathers have never been around.
- Some fathers have been around sporadically, but not engaged physically or emotionally.
- Some fathers view their children as possessions to dominate.
- Some fathers use excessive force.
- Some fathers view their children as possessions to show off—thereby believing the appearance is much more important than the actual benefits to the child.
- Some fathers use excessive emotion.

The list could go on.

I want to conclude this article (and this series of six articles) with the following two concepts.

Recognizing God's motive

Do you view the correction of God as He truly intends it?

Hebrews 12:5-11 does a good job in describing the superior motives of our Heavenly Father. Notice verses 9-11.

Hebrews 12:9-10—"Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness."

Hebrews 12:11—"Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

1 John 3:2—"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Accepting God's love

Do you remember the time in your life when you truly began to understand God's love toward you?

The spring feast days are an annual reminder of that wonderful relationship that we can have with our Heavenly Father.

1 John 4:19—"We love Him because He first loved us."