



## Loves Me Forever and Ever

*I love you with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3) NIV.*

The child threw a temper tantrum.  
The parent shouted at the rebellious teen.  
The middle-aged couple ignored each other.  
The older friends were angry and refused to speak to each other.  
Crisis upon crisis, and where is the love?

I remember singing the children's song, "God's L-O-V-E!" and am thankful today that it remains in my heart. The line that is so important goes, "It (God's love) reaches all, yes, even me. God's L-O-V-E, love."

To be loved, to know love, to give love is part of whom we are as God's people. It is a gift given to each of us. It is a gift to cherish, and a gift to give to others. God's love poured out for us in Jesus Christ – poured out in His suffering, death, and glorious resurrection to make us His own.

He loves each of us with an everlasting love that will never end or vanish. Earthly love, as we know, can come and go, but the Lord has given us the gift of His love. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we are always filled to overflowing with this love. It is not for us to keep to ourselves, but to share in all we do and say with those He places in our lives.

There are people near to us who don't know His great love; people who don't know that, no matter what, they are loved by Jesus. They may go through life searching for love and acceptance. We hold the answer to that search – God's love. All of us have troubles and crises that come and go, but the one thing that never changes is His love; that will last forever.

With this knowledge in our hearts and minds, how will we be different? How will that love be evidenced? What will be your reaction to a small child's tantrum, a teenager's rebellion, a spouse's indifference, or a friend's rejection? God never gives up on His children. He keeps giving them love and a way to come back to Him. In your personal relationships, do you always love and give an option for reconciliation? Now is the moment to know His everlasting love and be willing to extend it to others. We have such a wonderful privilege to be loved by Jesus so that we can give love, and give more love, and keep on giving love.

Let's pray: Grant us the courage and wisdom to use Your gift of love. May we always be conscious of that sacrificial love in our lives and be willing and able to share it with those You place before us. Let us be bold as we hold onto the promise that we are loved with an everlasting love. Amen.

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*Published by: Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2002*