



They are Precious in His Sight

Devotion

What's your favorite color? Why is it your favorite? Some people might say, "Blue, because it matches my eyes." Or "Yellow, because it's such a cheerful color." Or "Red, because it looks good on me."

What is God's favorite color? The sky is so beautiful maybe because it is blue! How about yellow? Think of the gorgeous flowers ... or maybe green – the soft hue of grass and trees. Of course we know God has no favorite colors, either in His creation or the people He made. In Acts 10:34 we read *how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.*

God so loved the world ... Say the Scripture verse out loud. *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). How reassuring to hear of God's love to **every** person. An old children's song reminds us that all people are "precious in His sight."

But are they precious in **our** sight? Are we impartial or do we have favorites? It is natural, in our humanness, to be around people like us – that includes culturally, financially, and even spiritually. It's much more comfortable to spend time with those who share the same experiences and do things the way we do. Just like having a favorite color, we choose to be around people because it satisfies or benefits us; we base our preferences on our desires. That's okay to a point. God does tell us to fellowship with other Christians, encouraging one another in faith, but we must not associate with believers **exclusively**. God didn't! Romans 5:8 says *But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

God's focus is on others, not Himself. He loves sinners because that is His nature; He is love and wants everyone to be a part of His kingdom. Our Father, Who sought us out while we were sinners, knows that all people, no matter what we look like on the outside, are the same on the inside. The same blood courses through their veins, all are born in sin, and have the same emptiness in life, a meaninglessness that can only be filled with God. He knows without His saving grace, they are doomed to hell.

God has chosen you to reach out with His love to all people He puts in your path. To do that you have to get out of your comfort zone as Christ did. He left the glories of heaven to come to earth to live with many people who were not like Him. Because He first loved you, He now asks you to make that quality decision to show His love to people who may not be like you. In fact, God is presenting this opportunity in our own country. How can you be a witness to God's love if you do not get out among people who need to hear about it? But God does not want you to do this alone. God gives you all you need – the desire, the wisdom, the compassion, the words, all are motivated by the love He gives you.

Remember His promise in 1 John 4:13, 15-17: *We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He had given us of His Spirit ... If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him.*

We are like Him! Take that complete love He's given you, and use it. You'll know without a doubt that all people are precious because you will be seeing them with God's eyes!

Prayer: Dearest Father, how blessed we are that You loved us so much You sent Your only Son to this foreign planet to live among us and even die with for sinners. Please forgive our reticence to share Your love with others. Help us to see with Your eyes of love. Fill us with zeal to see others as You see them and to reach out to them with Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture references are from the NIV.

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