

I want to take you to a tough place today. I want you to think of the worst thing you've ever done; the most egregious thing you've ever done. Think about how you felt when this thing became known. How did your parents, your brothers and sisters, respond to you? Did they reject you, kick you out of the family? No. They still accepted you. They might have been angry or disappointed in you, but they still loved you even through your failure.

Now think about the best thing you've ever done: the good deed, the kind word, the excellent accomplishment. How did your parents, your brothers and sisters, respond to you? They were probably proud of you, probably commended you for this good action or kind word. Did they love you more during this time of excellence than they did during your time of worst failure? I would say no. Your family loves you all the time, and that love isn't dependent on you doing good things all the time. They love you for who you are, not what you've done.

God's love for us works the same way. He sees everything we do, the outstanding and the absolutely horrible. His love for us isn't dependent on us always being good. We aren't good all the time and He knows that. His view toward us is that He loves us unconditionally. He loves us when we do well, and He loves us when we fail miserably. It's like a light switch. It's either on or off. God's love for us is on fully all the time, 24/7. There is never a time that He doesn't love us.

God sent His perfect Son to the world to pay the price for all our failures, so that we could be restored to fellowship with Him and live with Him eternally. His love for us is eternal.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to pay for our sins. Thank You that You love us all the time, and that Your love for us never changes. Thank You for that love, and for Your mercy and grace that we celebrate today in the taking of these elements. In Jesus' name, Amen.