

## When I Fall In Love: Unconditional?

Reconnect – February 13, 2011

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment. For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God – all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.

Romans 5:6-11, NLT



## When I Fall In Love: Unconditional?

Reconnect – February 13, 2011

Text: Romans 5:6-11; John 3:16-17

Key Thought: All God's love requires is for us to accept Him.

### “Some terms and conditions apply”



- No matter what you buy, no matter how much of a good deal you think you're reading about, or hearing about, there are ALWAYS some little words that will bring you back to earth: “some terms or conditions may apply” – which is code for, “You might think you're getting a super great deal, but we know you're actually not”
- Sometimes the wording differs slightly, but the sense is always the same – this deal is not for everyone, it's not as good as you think it is, and the moment it starts to tilt the deal in your favour, the terms and conditions will definitely “start to apply”
- We learn early on – after we get taken a few times by what we thought was too good to be true – that we have to read the fine print, every time

## In all of life...

- So much of life is like that, isn't it? Not just stuff we buy... but even relationships, too – “mutually beneficial” is the new name of the game – a step up from the grooming-challenged “you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours”, which I think was taken back by the monkeys, who said that it was in the fine print of their contract
- And it seems to make sense – of COURSE some conditions apply, because they apply to just about everything
- Common sense would say that if you had a friend who never did anything for you – in fact, who REFUSED to do anything for you – and you did thing after thing for them – well, why would they still be your friend?
- Even the friend who hurt you time and again, and then apologized every time – well, wouldn't that get old too? It might take longer than person A who doesn't seem to care... but we'd eventually figure out that person B is nothing better
- We get suspicious of people who give to us without seeming to want anything from us – because the longer we get to know them without discovering what that thing is, the more we think it's going to be something REALLY big – like they're trying to con us out of our life's savings, or steal our kidney when we're not looking

## What's God's deal, anyway?

- We worry like that when we hear about God – what's his hidden agenda? What's he really up to? Turn us into robots? Take away everything that we enjoy in life? Stick us with some ugly but righteous life partner? Make us suffer just because He can?

- **But what if “too good to be true” really was “too good NOT to be true”? What if His love was without strings?**
- Not even Christians can get their heads around this, much less people who have no background with the God of the Bible – they've spent centuries putting words in God's mouth, making up rules and conditions for God's love that must be kept before a person can REALLY be loved by God, insisting that there is a very high price tag and that few can afford it
- But God's response has always been *agape* – which is apropos, given the English pun – it's a jaw-dropping love, that leaves us shocked and mystified, but once we are assured of it, insanely grateful to be receiving it

## READ TEXT here again

- God's great, accepting, unrelenting, no strings attached love is real – we can trust it, we can trust Him, no matter who we are, what we've done, or even harder to accept, what those around us have done to US, it's for those people too – we are all on the same equal, undeserving but completely able to receive it love – if we will only trust Him and take Him at His word, take Him up on it

## Key Thought:

### All God's love requires is for us to accept Him.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.” – Jesus (John 3:16-17, NLT)