

**Need a Lift?**  
***Mother's Day 2015***

Pastor Carl Toti  
May 9-10, 2015

**John 15:9-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, that you love one another.

**John 15:4 NKJV**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

**What does the text say about God's love?**

**IT'S A LOVE THAT SELECTS.**

*"You did not choose me but I chose you" (v. 16).*

**IT'S A LOVE THAT SERVES.**

*"bear fruit -- fruit that will last" (v. 16).*

**We don't labor for love we labor because of love. We don't earn God's love we receive God's love.**

**IT'S A SOLID LOVE.**

*"Now abide in my love," the text says (v. 9). Jesus says we remain in his love when we obey his commands (v. 10).*

God's love like mom's love is unconditional. But mom's approval was conditional and so is God's.  
**GOD'S LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL BUT HIS APPROVAL IS CONDITIONAL.**

In marriage young couples can confuse love and approval. Love isn't a feeling but a state of holding that person in the highest regard in your heart of hearts. Just because a husband or a wife disapproves of how something was done or not done doesn't mean they no longer love each other.

Mom will always love her children no matter what. She may not always approve of what her children do. And a parent's reaction to what a kid may be struggling with can become worse than the problem itself and or exacerbate it.

And, we are always in the love of God. See Romans 8:35-39. Nothing can separate us from God's love. But God may not approve of certain attitudes or actions and thus will correct us because He loves us.

**IT'S A LOVE THAT SHARES.**

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (v. 12).*

**IT'S A SACRIFICIAL LOVE.**

*"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life" (v. 13).*