

THE THREEFOLD CORD OF LOVE

By Keith Greer

Today, we want to examine the "threefold" cord of love woven throughout the Scriptures.

God's Love for the World – Universal "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) This verse is one of the most-often-quoted Scripture passages. Sadly, many use it to teach a false faith-only doctrine. In the context, the subject under discussion is God's impartial love for the entire world. He showed this love by sending His Son to die on the cross. Obedient faith is the correct response to that love expressed in God's actions.

Christ's Love for the Church – Special "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." {Ephesians 5:25} Because of His love for her, Christ willingly gave His life for the grand institution known as the church. Paul told the Ephesian elders that Christ "purchased the church with His own blood." {Acts 20:28} The relationship between Christ and the church is special and personal; He is also its head {Ephesians 1:19-23}. He freely gave His life in order that He might be able to return the church to God on the final day {1 Corinthians 15:24-26}.

The Father's Love for His Family – Parental "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." {1 John 3:1} All of God's children can rightfully pray and acknowledge God as their Father. Each of us is a child in His household. Earthly fathers love their children and provide for their needs- love, instruction, blessings, and guidance. Our heavenly Father does this, and so much more, for His children. Even when we fail to follow His rules, He demonstrates His love by providing correction {Hebrews 12:5-11}. Yes, because I am part of God's family, we can know that He loves us!

No greater love has ever been poured out on mankind and never will again. God created man to have fellowship with Him and have an eternal relationship in His home someday. Everyone in the world has opportunity to experience this type of love—have you accepted His love? ***