

## A God's unconditional love:

### ❖ God wants everyone to be saved.

- God loves us so much that He made an immense sacrifice (His own life) so that all may be saved from sin (Jn. 3:16.)
- There is no one who, in the eyes of God, can be considered unworthy of attaining the salvation offered. God's love embraces all (Ps. 145:9.)
- If salvation depended only on the will of God, we would all be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4.)
- But He has given us freedom to decide whether or not we want to be saved; whether or not we want to respond to His love. We can imagine Him crying out with tears in His eyes, "Please accept my invitation... LIVE!" (Ezek. 33:11.)

### ❖ The reason for the covenant

- When God brought Israel out of Egypt to renew the covenant he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, "it was because the Lord loved you" (Deut. 7:8 NIV.)
- The word used to define the reason why God makes a covenant with us is *hesed*, which means:
  - (1) The mercy, kindness and love of God
  - (2) Loving-kindness or loyal love for another person within a relationship of reciprocal love
  - (3) Love shown with the intention that the other person manifests that same kindness and love in return
- God's love is reliable, constant, and enduring. But the benefits we can receive from that love are conditional, depending on our response (Ps. 25:10 NIV.)

## B The conditions of God's love:

### ❖ The conditions of the covenant.

- Some Bible verses may give us the impression that God stops loving us when we turn away from Him (Jer. 16:5 NIV.)
- However, let us look at the example in the book of Hosea, where God says categorically: "I will love them no more" (Hos. 9:15.) Shortly after, God will say: "I will love them freely" (Hos. 14:4.)
- God's love is eternal, He never stops loving us (Ps. 136:1 NIV). But He has set conditions so that we can receive the *benefits* of that love:
  - (1) Love Him (Jn. 16:27)
  - (2) Continue to love Him (Jn. 15:9; Jude 21)
  - (3) Keep His commandments (Jn. 14:21; 1Jn. 5:3)
  - (4) Loving one another (Jn. 15:17; 1Jn. 4:12)

### ❖ Respond to God's love.

- God always makes the first move. He loves us before we can do anything about it (Jer. 31:3.)
- When we perceive God's love and the great sacrifice He made for us, our natural reaction is to love Him and to love one another (1 Jn. 4:9-10, 19.)
- Unfortunately, not everyone reacts the same way. Sometimes, we can forget how much God loves us. Jesus exemplified this with a parable (Mt. 18:23-35.)
- A man's debt to his lord was the equivalent of 200,000 years of work! But his lord, out of love, forgave him.
- Forgetting the love he had received, this servant demanded from his fellow servant the equivalent of just over three months of work. What ingratitude! "Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" (Mt. 18:33.)

## C Our response to God's love:

### ❖ Transmitters of God's love.

- How can we compensate God for what He has done for us? Can we repay Him in any way?
- God does not ask us to pay or compensate him for the love we have received. He is content that we be transmitters of that which we have received freely (1 John 4:11; Matthew 10:8b.)
- We cannot repay what God has done, but we can thank Him by behaving toward others as He has behaved toward us.
- If loving God means loving others, we must urgently share the message of God's love with everyone.