



UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Basking In God's Love

- **Sharing Your time with God**
- **Luke 15:11-32 - The Loving Father**
- **With Love and Joy the Father received back his son whom he had considered dead.**
- **What do you think the younger son may have thought at the overwhelming reception?**
- **Why did he think his only option was to come back as a slave?**

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- ➔ **The Father then approaches the older son. 28-32**
- ➔ **The older son expected the same response as most of us would do. Conditional based love.**
- ➔ **The Father's love was unconditional, for both.**
- ➔ **Rom.8:1; the point of Romans 2,3 is that God's Holy Justice demands condemnation for sin.**
- ➔ **John 3:16; John 15:1-32 make it clear that God's love pursues us**

What Does God Think Of You?

- ▶ **"The notion of God's loving us unconditionally is absolutely radical. As Philip Yancey has written, "The Buddhist eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and Muslim code of law—each of these offers a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional." *Surrender to Love – David Benner***
- ▶ **Every other Religion has a god whose love is subject to our performance**

Earning God's Love?

- ➔ **Both Sons in the story of the Loving Father want to “EARN” the Father’s love**
- ➔ **The Father’s love reflects the Father’s character, not the children’s behavior!**
- ➔ **As a child of God, our behavior is never perfect! Sometimes our behavior, as the younger son’s was, grieves the Father, but it never changes his Love**

Becoming Love

- ➔ The purpose of you encountering a God of conditional love is that you could become a person who loves unconditionally
- ➔ Matt.5:38-42 – Love those who insult and abuse you
- ➔ 5:43-47 - Love your enemies
- ➔ 5:48 – Why? To be like your Heavenly Father! Love
- ➔ Why are you trying to earn God's Love, when by faith you can accept the unconditional love He offers?