A LOVING WELCOME TO ALL

Brother Samuel Matthews

Theme: ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

- **A brief introduction: BRANDON AHRENS is an evangelist preaching with the Church of Christ meeting in Burlington, WA. He and Catherine, his wife, have been married for four years and enjoy the company of their dog and cat. Brandon has performed mission work in Bolivia and Mexico and preached for churches of Christ in Alaska for 5 years. He holds degrees from the Sunset International Bible Institute and Amridge University. He is presently studying more through Heritage University. In his spare time he enjoys being in the outdoors whether he's hiking, fishing, hunting, or taking a long walk on the beach.**

FOUNDATIONAL LOVE

How God Loves Us

Prayer – Larry Linder

Song 435 - LOVE LIFTED ME

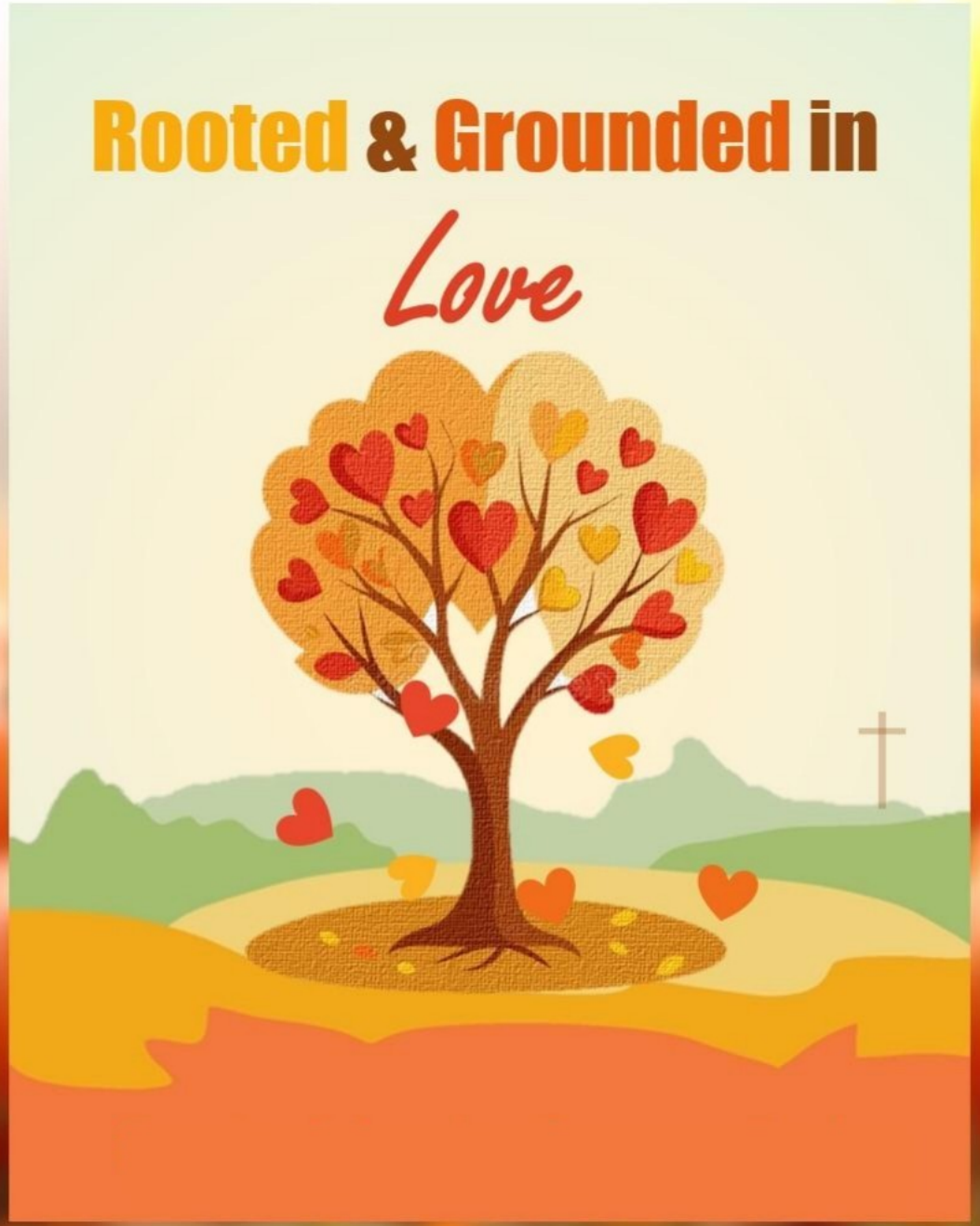
FOUNDATIONAL LOVE

How God Loves Us



Finding love that…

Protects
Trusts
Endures all things
Rejoices in the truth
Is kind
Matters





Ezekiel 16:7-14

7 I made you numerous like plants of the field. Then you grew up, became tall and reached
the age for fine ornaments; *your* breasts were formed and your hair had grown. Yet you
were naked and bare.
8 "Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread
My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a
covenant with you so that you became Mine," declares the Lord GOD. 9 "Then I bathed you
with water, washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. 10 I also clothed you
with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you
with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on
your hands and a necklace around your neck. 12 I also put a ring in your nostril, earrings in
your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 Thus you were adorned with gold and
silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey
and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. 14 Then your fame went
forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My
splendor which I bestowed on you," declares the Lord GOD.

God Demonstrates His Love through Providence

- Ezekiel is rich with symbols: Tall, formed, long hair, etc…
- God takes action!
  - Covers her with *His* skirt, cleans her, adorns her,
- God always gives the undeserving some amazing blessings!

Romans 8:31-35

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? 32 He who did
not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him
freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who
justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was
raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us
from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness,
or peril, or sword?

God Demonstrates His Love through Providence

Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.



Ezekiel 16:15-22

15 “But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you
poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be *willing*. 16 You took some of
your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors and played the harlot on them,
which should never come about nor happen. 17 You also took your beautiful jewels *made* of
My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you
might play the harlot with them. 18 Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered
them, and offered My oil and My incense before them. 19 Also My bread which I gave you,
fine flour, oil and honey with which I fed you, you would offer before them for a soothing
aroma; so it happened,” declares the Lord GOD. 20 “Moreover, you took your sons and
daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were
your harlotries so small a matter? 21 You slaughtered My children and offered them up to
idols by causing them to pass through *the fire*. 22 Besides all your abominations and
harlotries you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare and
squirming in your blood.

God Demonstrates His Love through Purchasing Us

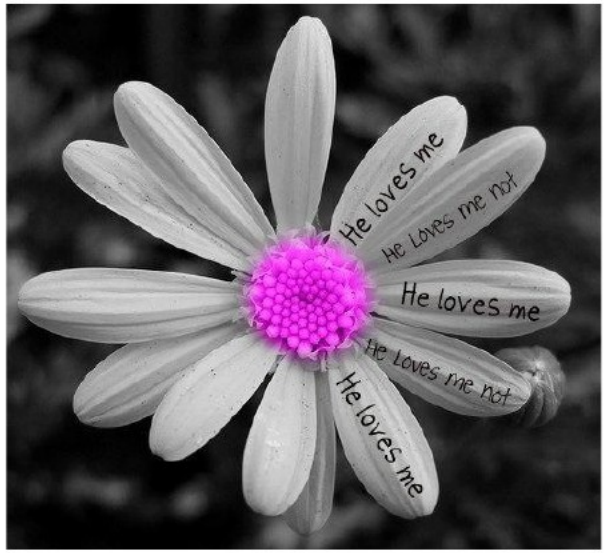
- What kind of people did God have to purchase?
- This woman took all of God's gifts and perverted them or traded them for something terrible
  - Vs 25 – spread her legs to every passer-by to multiply her whoredom
  - Vs 34 – You are worse than the other harlots, because you actually pay men to sleep with you instead of being paid
  - Vs 44 – "Like mother like daughter" You are exactly like your mother who abandoned you as a baby in the dust, hating her husband and her children.
  - Vs 47 – You acted more corruptly than all other nations (comparing her to Sodom)
- **Isaiah 59:2**

"But *your* iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and *your* sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear."

God Demonstrates His Love through Purchasing Us

- **Romans 8:38-39** – “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, [nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

He loves me?





HE LOVES ME!!!

God Demonstrates His Love through Purchasing Us

- **Romans 5:6-8** – “[6] You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. [7] Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. [8] But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- **John 8** – “Go and sin no more!”
- Hound of Heaven – Francis Thompson 1909
  - I fled…
  - He followed



Ezekiel 16:6

6 “When I passed by you and saw you squirming in your blood, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you *while you were* in your blood, ‘Live!’

God Demonstrates His Love through Proclamation

- God made the first move
- “Hear O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you shall *love* the LORD your God with all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your might.”
- We learn to say “I love you” because we first heard it coming from God’s lips.
- LIVE!
- Love Lifted Me! - “I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore. Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more. But the master of the sea, heard my despairing cry and from the waters lifted me now safe am I. Love lifted me!”

Ezekiel 16:60-63

60 “Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will
establish an everlasting covenant with you. 61 Then you will remember your ways and be
ashamed when you receive your sisters, *both* your older and your younger; and I will give
them to you as daughters, but not because of your covenant. 62 Thus I will establish My
covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD, 63 so that you may remember and
be ashamed and never open your mouth anymore because of your humiliation, when I have
forgiven you for all that you have done,” the Lord GOD declares.


Though the
seasons change,
God,
Your Love
remains.
I Can Hear
the Sound
of Rain

Invitation

Invitation Song

474 – Thank You, Lord

Closing Remarks And Prayer

Brother Curtis Braxton

