SPIRITUAL ETT (EXPLORING TRUTH TALKS): No. 1

Unconditional Love

We use this term, unconditional love, frequently and may seem to be perfectly clear to us but in our ever changing culture it may communicate something different. I had one person, who claimed to be a Christian use this concept to suggest that if God's love is unconditional and He loves everyone, then He accepts everyone. But our verbiage can sometimes trap us. How should we understand unconditional love?

God does not love and accept anyone the way they are because we are ungodly sinners who are enemies of God (Romans 5:6-9). He loves everyone but this does not mean He automatically accepts anyone the way they are, but God does love us *despite* who we are. He only accepts us based on a faith response to Christ (Romans 5:6-8). Love and acceptance are two different things.

I have been asked if we welcome or accept everyone at our church. The question is a bit of a trap – If I say no then we appear unloving; if I say yes, we may find ourselves with a possible dilemma because some equate love with acceptance and tolerance. My response: *we accept everyone on the same basis as God does*. We are committed to loving everyone despite who they are because God loved us despite who we are. When a person places faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins then God accepts them for who they now are… a child of God.

For your consideration,

Pastor Brad Little
Board Chairman, CB North Central