

Title: The UN of God's Love  
Theme: Love

Text: Luke 15:11-32  
Date: July 6, 2018

Open your Bibles or Bible Apps to Luke 15:11-32

**Slide:** The title .... The UN of God's Love

Synopsis: God's love is unconditional, unfathomable, and unending.

We're going to look at the UN of God's love through the story of the Prodigal Son.

Reading from Luke 15:11-32

Introduction: God's love is so big that the only way we can describe it is with words that begin with UN.

We know what a condition is, what it means fathom something and that something has an end.

Because the love of God is so big it's hard to personalize.

Analogy: One of the most moving examples of someone showing God's personal love to someone else was Billy Graham.

Billy Graham & General Jenkins, MASH, *We talked to one young boy who lay face down in a canvas and aluminum rigging. The doctor whispered to me that he would never move again, he was completely paralyzed for life, only his right arm could move. I reached down for his hand and he said, "Mr. Graham, I would like to see your face." I lay on the floor and looked up into his face, and then asked him to join me in a private word of prayer.*

Saint Augustine: God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

God loves because He loves us.

**Slide:** The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you. Deuteronomy 7:7-8

**Proposition:** The UN of God's love is because the Lord loves you.

Transitional Sentence: There are three UNs of God's love: unconditional, unfathomable, and unending.

## **I. Unconditional**

Unconditional love is hard to understand. Both the Prodigal Son and the Pleaser boy didn't get it.

**Slide:** Prodigal & Pleaser

I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son." Luke 15:18-19

"Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. Luke 15:29

Application: Prodigal and pleaser defined themselves by whether they were undeserving or deserving of their Father's love.

Father loved both boys because the Father loved them.

But he loved them in a manner that expected both boys to change.

Application: If you think the Father should have chased after the prodigal son, it might be difficult for you to understand God's unconditional love.

There is a view of unconditional love that says no matter how far I run away, Father God will chase after me:

- There's worship chorus I sung in another church with the words in it, "*no matter how far I run you chase after me.*" As we sang I thought, "That sounds more like psycho-girlfriend love than the unconditional love of God.
- If you asked people to define unconditional love, most would say it's accepting others unconditionally. Love song themes: half true with God.

Application: This is why unconditional acceptance of homosexuals has become the test as to whether the church loves unconditionally.

Those who say God accepts us just as we are are not loving people as God loves them.

**Slide:** To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He [God] made us accepted in the Beloved [Christ]. Ephesians 1:6

Our acceptance before God is not based on anything we have done.

It is based upon whether we through faith and repentance accept what Christ did for us.

The cross is where the unconditional love of God and our acceptance before God meet.

**Slide:** God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son [unconditional love] that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life [conditional acceptance].  
John 3:16

Ephesians :1-3-6 NIV: 3 sentences; ESV: 2 sentences

- Purpose: holy and without blame before God.
- Source: In love he predestined us to adoption.

T/C: God loves you unconditionally and makes you acceptable through Christ—forgiveness.

Segue: Forgiveness of the Father was unfathomable to the prodigal son.

## II. Unfathomable

Prodigal son could not fathom his Father's forgiveness.

**Slide:** "I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" Luke 15:18-19

Prodigal rehearsed speech.

The prodigal son could stop what he was doing, but could not forget what he had done.

**Slide:** He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:19

Encyclopedia Britannica: **Fathom**, old English measure of length, now standardized at 6 [feet](#) (1.83 metre), which has long been used as a nautical unit of depth. The name comes from the Old English *faedm* or *faethm*, meaning outstretched arms.

Forgiveness of God is unfathomable.

We have gone to the moon, but we have not plumbed the depths of the sea.

Prodigal had sins subdued and cast into the sea.

**Slide:** "But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.'" Luke 15:22-23 NASB

The unfathomable love of God casts our sins into the sea and celebrates our return to him: "Was dead but now he's alive."

Segue: This kind of love is unending.

### **III. Unending**

The Father never gave up on either kid.

**Slide:** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. Luke 15:20

But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, Luke 15:28 NASB

There is an end to human love.

God's love is unending.

God has not given up on you.

**Conclusion:** God loves you because He loves you. You don't earn God's love and nothing you do is beyond His forgiveness.

Prayer: Maybe you need a touch of God's love...open our hearts and let him love on us.