

January 28

1 John 4:10 (NIV) This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Several years ago, a good friend told Carol and me about Tyler Perry's "Madea" movies, where Tyler Perry dresses up as old, heavy-set, black woman. At first the premise did not intrigue me, so it was some time before Carol and I watched our first Madea movie. In these movies, Perry mixes comedy with drama and with an unashamed love for Jesus. These movies are hilarious, touching, and inspiring. We watched one of the movies last that dealt with two sisters' struggles with love. At one point Maya Angelou and Cicely Tyson, who play two of the matriarchs of the family, explain to the sisters what love truly is. Maya Angelou explained that love can be many things. After explained that statement, she concluded by stating, "There is one thing love cannot be; love cannot be unsure."

I love that line for its simplicity and its profound truth. That statement made me think of my relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus' love for us was never and will never be unsure. When He walked among the crowds who sought to kill Him, His love was never unsure. When He prayed alone in that garden, sweating blood, asking the Father to take the cup from Him, His love for us was never unsure. Nailed to the cross with His life slipping away, His "for sure" love led to His forgiving all of us. Because His love for us will never be unsure, our love for Him should not be unsure. I can remember times when I was younger where I felt God's love. Then, something would happen that would cause me to doubt His willingness or even His ability to love someone like me. My love was unsure; therefore, my relationship with Him was unsure. When we reach that moment, when His love and forgiveness washes away our doubts, our lives will change forever. One thing that God's love can never and will never be is unsure.