

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. (Psalm 36:7)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4: 9, 10)

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. (Ephesians 5:4)

How Deep is Our Love?

Let me ask a question of gentlemen out there with wives (although this might also work for men with fiancées, or at least dating a woman you're *considering* marrying): If a guy were to walk up to you on the street and tell a dirty joke about your significant other, perhaps even suggesting she made her living as a whore, to your face, what would your response be? More often than not, you would likely be sorely tempted to punch mister foul-mouth's lights out. And why? Because he's making obscene – and untrue – comments about your lady. He has just soiled her honor and her dignity as a woman and owes her profuse apologies for his conduct.

I recently got into a discussion with someone about a “joke” I read on social media twisting a principle of the Kingdom of God into its opposite for the sake of humor. Although it's not obscene, I won't go into it here, but I thought it bordered on blasphemy. If the first part of the gag had stopped there, I probably would not have said anything, but have dismissed it as just another dumb social media joke that wasn't terribly funny. But when the jest tried to tie God to it, the line was crossed as far as I was concerned, and I responded to the poster about it. Meanwhile, a second person took up a defense of the original post saying, essentially, lighten up – it's just a joke. This led to a back-and-forth with this second person, accompanied by the usual comments one hears if believers object to certain types of content: God has a sense of humor, too; only you don't think it's funny, etc.

Let me say first that there is no greater proof that God has a sense of humor than myself. Having said that, however, I will admit I was a little surprised at the strength of my reaction. But lately I had been contemplating the love of God and how ours as human beings compared to His... and how mine compared to His. And I found myself praying that I wished I loved Him more. He truly has been gracious to me, you know. He has given me a family and a life that would not have believed beforehand – even if He told me so. My reaction was one of a man whose protective nature for his lady was triggered: *Hey – you don't say that around my wife!* It was my love for God rising up.

It must be certainly acknowledged that too many times in the last 50 years or so, believers have been content to just *let things slide* while people mis-characterize or tell outright lies about the One Who saved us from an eternity in hell and then tried to pass it off with a lame, *It's a joke, son or Change the channel if you don't like it.* (Just what do you do when it's on every blessed channel?) And look where we are now as a country for our silence.

In those last 50 years, however, the Gibb brothers from Australia (you know them better as the BeeGees) released a song entitled *How Deep is Your Love?* And I believe that we are reaching the point where God is asking us the same thing. We already have an inkling of the depths of His; certainly not the

full picture, but it's still mind-boggling, And though it's a different *form* of love than we're accustomed to (the Greeks had to coin the word *agape* to describe it), it is no less profound, moving and humbling when we realize it. And it draws us to our Heavenly Beloved just as powerfully as it does to our earthly ones.

As I said when I started the postings on social media over a year ago, I will not be silent anymore about these things. Other believers are speaking up, more with each passing day as the depths of evil in this nation is exposed. And if enough of us stand in the Armor of our Heavenly Beloved and the power of the Holy Spirit and say, **STOP! NO MORE!** imagine how things might change in this country and the world.

For the Glory of God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
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