

“Love Hurts”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. The song “Love Hurts” was originally performed by the Everly Brothers in July 1960; however, the song is most well-known from the 1974 international hit version by Scottish rock band Nazareth.
 - 1. It speaks of someone who is in pain over the breakup of a romantic relationship, and how such pain discourages one from trusting another enough to love again.
- B. We often have an inaccurate view of love, believing it should only make us feel good, and that it can only bring happiness.
 - 1. “Our greatest joy and our greatest pain come in our relationships with others.” (Stephen Covey)
 - 2. “You cannot protect yourself from sadness without protecting yourself from happiness. Love is painful, but the pain is certainly a blessing. Love is painful because love brings growth. Love demands, transforms and is painful because love gives you a new birth. Love brings your heart into relationship -- and when the heart is in relationship there is always pain. If you avoid the pain, you will miss all pleasures of life. With love are problems. But with problems is growth -- the greater the problem, the greater the opportunity. More and more pain, too. That's why many people never love -- it is so painful.” (Jonathan Foer)
- C. That is why the highest, most mature form of love is a choice.
 - 1. It is the decision motivated by love to actively care for the best interests of the one who is loved, even if such care requires sacrifice and loss and brings sorrow and pain.
 - 2. Only those who love in this fashion truly understand love in its fullness.
 - 3. Therefore, it is essential to know that our commitment to love another will hurt from time to time, and that if we avoid or abandon love when it hurts, we are not worthy of being loved by the other in return.

I. WHEN GOD CHOSE TO LOVE US, HE KNEW HE WOULD EXPERIENCE PAIN

- A. God loved humankind and created and blessed us - Gen. 2:27-28, 31
 - 1. Imagine His joy in creating Adam and Eve and gifting them with elements of His Divine Nature.
 - 2. Imagine how carefully, lovingly He prepared a perfect home for them -- a secure garden where they were at peace with all animals and could enjoy fresh fruit, nuts, vegetables, etc. at will.
 - 3. Imagine the love He felt for His children as He met them in some form and walked with them in the garden.
 - 4. Now imagine how He felt when the children He loves did something that vastly, violently distanced themselves from Him - Gen. 3:7-13
 - a. Their innocence is lost - “they knew they were naked.”
 - b. Had they ever had the desire to hide from God before?
 - c. Had they ever been afraid of God before?

- d. Had Adam ever tried to blame God before?
- 5. Everything God did for them was out of His love for them. How do you think that made Him feel?
- B. God was saddened because of how far from Him His children grew to be over the years.
 - 1. We love our children dearly. We are sad when they leave home, sadder still when they move a distance away, and the saddest of all when they shut us out of their lives.
 - 2. This is also the price of God's love for humankind - Gen. 6:5-6
 - 3. At some point, to ease the pain in and damage to our hearts, we must let our children go on with their lives, hoping one day they will return.
 - 4. And so must God allow them to go, desiring that they would come home to Him, but consigning them to the fate they have chosen if they do not.
- D. Jesus loves God and left the glory of heaven for the pain and rejection of this world to do His Father's will.
 - 1. John 1:18, 4:34, 6:38
- E. Jesus loves us and went to the cross taking the pain we earned.
 - 1. John 15:9-13; 2Cor. 8:9
- F. The Father and Son love us, knowing that Their love would leave Them vulnerable to being hurt by those They love.
 - 1. They were willing to take the risk, not just for the reward of the relationship, but their love for the other made their wellbeing paramount.

II. WHEN WE CHOOSE TO LOVE ANOTHER, WE WILL EXPERIENCE PAIN

- A. Spouses love one another, but occasionally experience pain in the relationship, stress and strife in crises, and agonizing loss when one passes from life before the other.
 - 1. Ezek. 24:15-19
- B. Parents love their children, make sacrifices in order to raise them, and subject themselves to the potential to be hurt when they leave or die, and especially if they should depart the faith.
 - 1. 2Sam. 18:5, 14, 31-33
- C. Elders and preachers love the local church and commit themselves to serve it sacrificially regardless of the personal pain they and their families experience from the unkind, or the unfaithful, or the ungrateful.
 - 1. Acts 20:31, 36-38
- D. The sorrows and sacrifices occasionally experienced by our commitment and love as members for others in the local church.
 - 1. Phil. 2:25-30; 1Cor. 16:15-18; 2Cor. 11:23-29

Conclusion:

A. "Too often we define love as something that we feel verses something that we give. Sacrifice is the pinnacle of our humanity. Yet, so many of us stay in the basement of our greed. Sacrifice is assumed to be the giving away of that which we need for our own survival. But have we considered that survival, in the spiritual sense of the word, is not based on what we keep, but on what we give away? I am thankful that there are

those among us who have sacrificed dearly on behalf of us. And I ardently pray to God that I might be less like myself and more like them. I would much prefer the 'wealth of impoverishment' (where I have spent my life giving to others), over the 'impoverishment of wealth' (where I have squandered my life giving to myself). By far, the best way to find myself before I end up losing myself is to put someone else before myself." (Craig Lounsborough)

B. Yes, love hurts. But when we experience that pain when loving another, we are giving them the most they could hope for in that relationship, and doing for them the very best a human being can to lift them up.

1. How often in the past did the unconditional love of others lift you out of a dangerous or dark place?
2. When you suffer loss to lift up another, you are behaving just like your Father in Heaven.
3. We who have been lifted up by the love of God, must reach out and risk the pain to lift up others.