

Volume 3, Day 1: Swim in the River of God's Love

I hope you're beginning to believe and accept His unconditional love for you. It may not be perfectly clear at this moment. It usually takes years of walking this journey. Life is to be lived in love. Jesus summed up His whole ministry with His disciples, "Here's what I want you to do. Here's the new command. Go love others like you've been loved."

Jesus kind of set the tone for our relationship with Him. If we are to resonate with His heart, our life in this world must be about love. This is almost polar opposite to how most of us live. We were taught, or maybe concluded by experience, to live in our own self preference. We pursued living selfishly. We pursued our own personal pleasure, prosperity, popularity, applause, and power in controlling everything we possibly could. In other words, in any given situation I try to maximize whatever joy I can get out of it. I might be trying to be first in line or struggling to get the best thing on display. Conversely, I try to minimize whatever pain might be in the situation for me. So the natural spirit in me develops coping mechanisms to help me navigate life as if I'm not loved.

Jesus invites us into a love affair. Like a river, it's something we jump into. It's a reality. We swim in it. Our nature is always trying to get our own way in life. But Jesus invited us into a way of living loved. Peter expressed it this way in his letter in 1 Peter 4 he said, "Jesus went through everything you're going through and more besides, learn to think like Him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful selfish habit of always expecting to get your own way. Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want. Swim in God's unconditional love!