

## Love Is More Than A Word

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us, " (Romans 5:8).

Chelsea was looking for something special to give her Mom for Mother's Day. She knew that her Mom wanted a new toaster oven , but there was just no way she had enough money to buy that. Besides, Dad often bought kitchen appliances as gifts. She looked for weeks in the ads for something to buy, but she found nothing.

Chelsea became very discouraged. She loved her Mom very much, and she really wanted to do something to show her love. Then she had an idea! "What if I make Mom a card and volunteer to sort the laundry?" she thought. "I know Mom really hates that job." So she made a card with pictures and markers and with a coupon inside that read; "Free laundry sorting. Good anytime. No expiration date." On Mother's Day, Chelsea's Mom opened her card and her face lit up. She said it was the best gift she ever received .... even

better than the toaster oven she got from her husband. Toaster ovens, cards and coupons, flowers and kisses - all of these can be ways to say, "I love you." There's one thing they all have in common. They are more than just words. A true test of love is that it's more than just words - that it shows itself in action. That's what Mother's Day is all about.

To find love that passes this test, however, isn't always easy. To find love that doesn't demand something up front or something in return is sometimes rather hard to do. But this kind of love does exist. "God demonstrates his own love for us in this:" the Apostle Paul reminded the Roman Christians (and all of us too), "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. "

God's love is more than just words. The way God said, "I love you," was to have his one and only Son Jesus become our Substitute, pay the penalty for all of our sins with his holy life and innocent death in our place, and earn the complete forgiveness of sins for each one of us. God didn't do this because we deserved it. And he didn't do it either because he was looking for something in return. No, God did this simply because he loves us!

Because of God's love, there is now a place in the kingdom of heaven with our name on it. Because of God's love, we also have a purpose in this life, and that is, to look for ways to say, "I love you," to God and to those around us. Love is more than a word. It expresses itself in actions - toaster ovens and laundry sorting and Bible reading and church attendance and a host of other ways. "Dear children, " the Bible says, "let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth, " (1 John 3:18). May God grant us the grace to always do so.

Blessed by the love of Jesus,  
Pastor Terry