

Daniel Perrin – L1: God Loves Freely – Monday, December 30: Unrequited Love

1. Unrequited love — Not reciprocated / Not returned / One-Sided Relationship
 - Have we thought of what Unrequited Love does to God?
 - ...Whose concept of love has NOT been desensitized or manipulated by sin.
 - How could we ever understand how a One-Sided Relationship affects Our God?
2. The prophet Hosea
 - God trusted Hosea with a glimpse into what it's like to be God
 - Hosea is willing to see what God sees and feel what God feels
 - God says – “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry” (NKJV)
 - NIV – “Go, marry a promiscuous woman”
 - ESV – “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom”
 - NLT – “Go and marry a prostitute”
 - Backdrop of understanding God's experience of unrequited love
 - **Hosea 11:1-4 (NIV)** – “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. ³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.”
 - There is a time for one-sided-ness in relationships — infancy and childhood
 - But eventually the growing child must respond and continue to respond.
 - **INSTEAD: Vs.7** – *My people are determined to turn from me.*
 - **Isaiah 65:2-3** – *I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts, a people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face;*
 - **Ezekiel 16:14-15** – *Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you,” says the Lord GOD. ¹⁵ “But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it.*
 - **Ezekiel 33:11** – *Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’*
 - **Hosea 11:8**, “My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred.”
3. “All I do is give, give, give.”
 - If there is anyone who could say this, it is God:
 - TEXT - makes the rain to shine on the eviland the good
 - TEXT - given us everything for life and godliness
 - TEXT - come take of the water of life freely
 - TEXT - gave his only begotten son
 - **Matthew 23:37** – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”
 - **DA 620.1** – “In a voice choked by deep anguish of heart and bitter tears He exclaimed...”
 - “Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered” (**Zech. 13:7; Mt. 26:31**)
 - He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; ... He was oppressed and He was afflicted, ... And they made His grave with the wicked (**Isaiah 53:3,7,9**)
 - “I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me” (**Isaiah 63:3**).

- In Gethsemane, His soul was overwhelmed to the point of death
 - With none to comfort Him — sound asleep
 - UNREQUITED LOVE
4. How often do we fail to return the love of God
- God's daily gifts: life, breath, sunrise, Bible, time with Him, strength
 - What if I never took that strength
 - What if I focused on imaginary worries
 - What if I focused on real worries
 - What if I went on as if I don't have a loving Savior
 - What if I turned away from loving instruction
 - What if I rejected pleading warning
 - What if I took Him for granted
 - What if I never believed His promise that He could give me victory over sin
 - What if I rushed out the door in the morning without conversation
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5. Ultimately a 1-sided relationship falls apart
- a. GOD WILL NOT FORCE LOVE — There comes a time when God allows consequences
- **Lamentations 3:33** – *For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.*
 - **Ephesians 4:30** – *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*
 - **Romans 1:24/26/28** – *Therefore God also **gave them up to uncleanness** / to vile passions / gave them over to a debased mind*
 - **Proverbs 1:24-25** – **Because** *I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,* ²⁵ *Because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke,*
6. THE TRUTH IS: My relationship with God IS one-sided
- I am a great sinner – He is a sin-pardoning Savior
 - I am weak – He is strong
 - I have been faithless – He has been faithful
 - I bring Him NO goodness – He brings me ONLY goodness
 - I deserve death – He restores life
 - I am help-less – He IS my Help

Upward Look, 298.2 – *God will test the character on every point. He has a Father's heart, and He bears long with His children. In His dealings with the children of Israel He pleaded with them in mercy and love. Patiently He set their sins before them, and in forbearance waited for them to see and acknowledge their wrongs. When they repented and confessed their sins, He forgave them; and though the offense was oft repeated, there were no taunting words spoken, no resentment expressed.*