

*"We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

Remember the first time someone lowered their voice and knowingly remarked, *"I think they like you"*? You were instantly interested. Remember your first love; how the world revolved around the object of your affection; the desire to be in a place with them where no one else could intrude; to be near them constantly? We respond to love because we were created to respond to it. It fills a basic need that we are born with. There is a God-shaped vacuum in each soul that He alone can fill sufficiently, yet we are incessantly trying to use other things to fill that void. Sex, food, money, possessions, and a myriad of other things are used to try and satisfy, but they cannot. The reason battered spouses stay in life



threatening relationships is, because the basic need to love and be loved is stronger than life itself. Why do jilted lovers commit suicide? God has created us to want to be loved more than anything else, and He has furthermore insisted with His Word and by His actions, that His Love for us is everlasting! His Love for us is pure and undefiled by ulterior motives. He loved us before we were even born, because He knew us from eternity past. God's Love is so infinite that He can fully Love us collectively as well as individually. He desires to be closely intimate with each believer. Why else would His written Word have survived countless attempts to destroy it? God preserves His Word to *"every generation."* He wants you to get to know Him. He loves you and cares for you more than you could ever comprehend, yet we reject Him daily without a second thought by filling the void meant for Him with other things. We refuse to love Him who *"first loved us."* I'm sure that the place He is preparing for us will stagger the imagination with its beauty and craftsmanship. Everything he does for us is motivated by His Love of us. *"Jesus, Lover of my soul, let me hide myself in Thee."* We will never find a more perfect resting place than the arms of our Blessed Redeemer. We will never find a more satisfying and fulfilling relationship than falling in love with, Jesus. We will never find a truer more loyal friend. We will never find a more lasting love than the Love of God.

*Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made,*

*Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade;*

*To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry;*

*Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky. ~Frederick M. Lehman*