



**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

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# The Cross and Crown

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Is there anything in this world closer to God's unconditional love than the love of a mother for her child? Human mothers (as well as those in the animal kingdom) have been known to put their lives on the line in order to protect their children. Mothers may not always understand or agree with their children, but their love for them never wavers. A mother's patience may run out, but her love never will.



So, what's more pure and enduring than a mother's love for her newborn? God's love! God says that it's more likely for a woman to forget the child nursing at her breast than it is for him to forget or fail to have compassion on his people.

It genuinely pains me to know that many of the lost are unaware that God loves them, thinking instead that he actually hates them. What hurts more is knowing that it is we, the church, who have given them that impression.

Unfortunately, many believers, in misplaced zeal for God spew hatred towards sinners, confusing our mission field with our enemy. Let there be no mistake: Those who are ensnared by sin are our mission field, not our enemy. Our enemy is the one who ensnared them.

As always, our example is Jesus. He did not condemn the woman caught in the very act of adultery, but treated her with love and compassion, urging her to repent after he saved her life. Similarly, the woman at the well was astonished that Jesus didn't despise her, the way that observant Jews despised Samaritans. Even though he knew all about her life of sin, he treated her gently, even offering her the fountain of eternal life.

Our job as Christ's followers is clear. We are to be his ambassadors, as though he were making his appeal through us. We are to love those who hate us, bless those who persecute us, and lay down our lives so that others may live free from sin. The love to which we are called is superhuman. It can only come from the Spirit of God.

Many years ago, Sis. Betty Roberson shared something in Sunday school that has stayed with me ever since: When her mother learned that she was going to be a pastor's wife, she began praying that God would give her a love for people. What a great prayer for all of us to echo!

Our capacity to love has limits. Let us ask God to cultivate his all-surpassing love in us!

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*(Romans 5:8)*

# Thanks for Praying!

It has been a challenging week, pulling everything together for the Academy's first week. We could not have done it without your prayers! Please continue to intercede with us for

- our Sunday morning Connection Circles (small group discipleship classes for all ages),
- our fall ministries and upcoming leadership retreat,
- God to call laborers, including new interns, and
- financial provision for the ministries and missionaries we support.







Church volunteers and SGA Staff welcome students on the first day of school

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

Thanks so much to those who have kept in touch! It's so encouraging to hear from you!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

Depending on where you are in the world, how dark it is outside and what the weather and pollution conditions are, you can see up to ten thousand stars in the night sky. This is a tiny fraction of the number of stars (around 100 billion) in our galaxy, which is one of up to two trillion galaxies in the observable universe.

Genesis 1:16 is really an understatement, isn't it?

**"He also made the stars." (Genesis 1:16)**



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<https://HighwayTabernacle.org> ♦ <https://ResLife.AG> ♦ Sunday services at Noon: <https://ResLife.stream>