

“My Child, I Love You”

(Have the confirmands come forward and address them,)

I want you to look over the congregation today. I believe you may see some special people here today. They are your family members and relatives. Aside from the fact that they need to be here tonight to receive the forgiveness of their sins through the means of grace distributed in this worship service, they are also here because of love. They have a love for you and have probably come to join you in this special day and your confirmation on Sunday. They have come to hear your public confession of faith, stating your love for and devotion to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, their love for you pales in comparison with God’s love for you in Christ Jesus.

(The confirmands can return to their seats.)

When God’s love for you is described in His “love letter”—the Bible—it is in connection with His greatest act of love displayed in the death of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. Here’s some examples:

♥ John 3:16 → God so **loved the world**, that **He gave His only Son**, that *whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life*. God loves you so much that He gave His Son to deal with your sin once and

for all!

- ♥ Romans 5:8 → *God shows His **love for us** in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us**. In Christ, God shows His love for unlovable, undeserving, unappreciative, rebellious sinners such as you and I!*
  
- ♥ 1 John 4:9-10 → *In this the **love of God was made manifest among us**, that God **sent His only Son** into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that **He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins**. Jesus paid the final punishment for your sins demanded by God's justice. You are forgiven!*
  
- ♥ Romans 8:38-39 → *I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from **the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord**. Wow! Nothing will separate you from the love which your heavenly Father has for you and the evidence of such steadfast love is Jesus!*

Being reassured that Jesus truly loves us unlovable sinners is the basis for your confession of faith and promise of a life committed to obedience to His Will and Word. Thus, your confession is more a confession of God's love for you and less a confession of your love for Him because from beginning to end

of the faith journey it's all about Jesus—the ultimate evidence of God's steadfast love for you!

Consider this “love letter” from Jesus entitled, “My Child, I Love You.”

My child, I love you.

I love you unconditionally.

I love you good or bad with no strings attached.

I love you like this because I know all about you.

I have known you ever since you were a child.

I know what I can do for you

and I know what I want to do for you.

My child, I accept you.

I accept you just as you are.

You don't need to change yourself.

I'll do the changing when you are ready.

I love you just as you are.

Believe this, for I assure you it is true.

My child, I care about you.

I care about every big and little thing which happens to you.

I care enough to do something about it.

Remember this.

I will help you when you need me. Ask me.

I love you. I accept you. I care about you.

My child, I forgive you.

I forgive you and my forgiveness is complete.

It is not like that of humans who forgive but cannot forget.

I love you and my arms are open with love that says,

"Please come here! Come here to Me."

I forgive you. Do not carry your guilt another moment.

I carried it all for you on the Cross.

Believe this. It is true.

(Author Unknown)

♥ 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 → *May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and*

*God our Father, **Who loved us** and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. Amen.*