



All For Love

On October 29, 2018, the Japanese Princess Ayako, married the love of her life, Kei Moriya. "I am awed by how blessed I am," Princess Ayako said on her wedding day. But at that same day, when her love dreams came true, the princess had to say goodbye to her royal life. Why? Well, Japan's Imperial House Law mandates that female members of the royal family must surrender their title, fortune, and place in the imperial family should they choose to marry a commoner. Kei Moriya, the bridegroom didn't belong to the royal family, he was a commoner who worked for a shipping company. On her wedding day, Princess Ayako said, "I will leave the imperial family today, but I will remain unchanged in my support for his majesty and her majesty." For love, Princess Ayako gives up her royal status! True love really does conquer all. Let me ask you, what have you done for love? Take this time to share with those around you, some of your experiences with love! What have you done for love?

Countdown 2' Minutes

Love is a propeller of the world. Even though we may live in a broken world, with imperfect relationships, we have a glimpse of love everyday! We can see and experience love around us. The reality is that "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree." What do I mean by that? Our roots, our DNA carries love, because we were created by a loving God, who loves us. The apostle John is categorical in stating that "The person who does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:8 ISV). Yes, God is love. Pay attention to what the Bible teaches us about the relationship between God and Love. The Bible does not only express the affirmation that God loves, that He has the perfect love, and that human beings are the main subject of His love, but also, that God Himself, the essence of God, the quality of being God is love. He is the proper Love. He is Love Himself. "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16 NIV).

Most of the time when we start thinking or even talking about the being of God, we come to a wall. Trying to explain how God can be one and also saying that God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 'Three persons, one God' can be quite a challenge. Our brains automatically try and check out and say, "Does not compute! Does not compute!" God is the absolute mystery of our lives and

because we, as finite creatures, have only very limited ways of understanding and expressing the transcendent glory of God's Trinitarian life, we will always fall short about it. We may use some illustrations or metaphors to comprehend or explain God, but all those have limitations and do not properly portray the Godhead.

In thinking and talking about the divine nature of God, we should apply the principle 29/29. Do you know the principle 29/29? No?! Let me begin explaining the principle 29/29 by what the principle does not say. This principle does not say that we should be quiet about something that we don't know, or that we should not explore it. It's not because we don't fully understand the nature of divinity, that we should not think or talk about it. On the contrary, then, we can never be done thinking and speaking and coming to an adoring wonder that we have been given such an extraordinary privilege of knowing about God and His own nature. So, what does the principle 29/29 say? Take your Bible, and read for yourselves the principle 29/29 in Deuteronomy 29:29. Please, read the Bible verse and discuss the principle 29/29 with those around you.

2' Countdown: Read Deuteronomy 29:29.

I like how the New Living Translation presents Deuteronomy 29:29, "The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that He has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions." I think you got principle 29/29. The principle 29/29 says that God have some things that He has not revealed to us, or given us the ability to fully understand. On the other hand, God has revealed to us and given us the means to comprehend or at least to have a glimpse of many things, and it is our responsibility to invest our time, resources, and faculties to those aspects revealed. So, the principle 29/29 is an adjustment, an alignment to what God wants us to know, to focus on and to live out. The principle 29/29 applied on our search for understanding who God is means that we should invest our heart, soul, power and strength on what God has revealed to us about Himself. Then, let me ask you? What is the main aspect that God has revealed to us about Himself? What does God wants us to know about Him? How does God want us to understand and relate to Him? There are many qualities and attributes about God described for us in His Word, but none of those are so plentiful, overflowing, and expressed throughout the Bible, as the main theme: LOVE! God is Love! So, if you want to study God, to understand God, study Love, His Love! Learning about the Biblical Love, God's Love, it's learning about God! That is the way He has revealed Himself to us. That is the way He wants to be known. That is the way He aims to relate to us! LOVE!

Let's learn more about God by reading some bible verses about God's love and its expressions! Take your Bible right now and read these Bible verses about God's love and how it is expressed. Share your thoughts with those around you.

4' Countdown - Read: Romans 1:20; Genesis 1:26, 27; 1 John 4:9-10 and Psalm 36:7.

Have you heard of the word Perichoresis? The early church used this term, Perichoresis refers to the relationship of the three persons of the triune God to one another. The word Perichoresis (**περιχώρησις**) is a compound word. The first word is Peri, where we get the word perimeter or periscope, meaning round or circle. The last part is Choresis, where we get the word choreography, the partnership of movement. So the word Perichoresis " indicates a sort of mutual containing or enveloping of realities, which we also speak of as coinherence or coindwelling."¹ So, in my humble understanding, Perichoresis describes the intimacy, the closeness, the unity, the dynamic, the passion, the work, the binding, the reciprocity, the harmony, the happiness, the indwelling, the intercommunion that each person of the triune God experiences with one another in their relationship. Perichoresis is the fellowship of three co-equal Persons perfectly embraced in love and harmony and expressing an intimacy that no one can humanly comprehend. Some scholars express the Perichoresis as the dance of love. Three Loving Persons, loving each other, and expressing their love through love! God the Father loves the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Son loves the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit loves the Father and the Son! It's a loving dynamic relationship, by love, and for love. The Dance of Love.

From this dance of love by the Father, Son, and Spirit, the earth came into existence. Human beings were created. From this dance of love, a rescue plan came into place and Jesus Christ was given. From this dance of love, the concept of church was elaborated, and the loving message given to be proclaimed. For this reason, when we invite someone to God, we are not inviting someone to a religion, or denomination, nor to a set of beliefs or behaviours. When we invite someone to God, we are inviting them to a relationship, a loving relationship, to the dance of love, to God's Perichoresis.

Because of this loving dance, I can humbly paraphrase Paul's words to the Romans, "Everything comes from love; Everything happens through love; Everything ends up in love. Always glory! Always praise! Yes. Yes. Yes." (Romans 11:36 The Message).

Let's celebrate God! Let's embrace God's revelation about Himself. Let's commemorate Love. Let's join God in His loving dance. Let's invite others to this loving relationship. Let's be the Church - Loving and Serving.

¹ Thomas F. Torrance, *The Christian Doctrine of God, One Being Three Persons* (Edinburgh, Scotland: T&T Clark, 1996), 102.