

Jesus Christ's Mission to Show God's Love

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Of the many magnificent purposes served in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, one great aspect of that mission often goes uncelebrated. His followers did not understand it fully at the time, and many in modern Christianity do not grasp it now, but the Savior Himself spoke of it repeatedly and emphatically. It is the grand truth that in all that Jesus came to say and do, including and especially in His atoning suffering and sacrifice, He was showing us who and what God our Eternal Father is like, how completely devoted He is to His children in every age and nation. In word and in deed, Jesus was trying to reveal and make personal to us the true nature of His Father, our Father in Heaven.

Jesus came to plead with man to love their Heavenly Father as He has always and will always love them. The plan of God, the power of God, the holiness of God, yes, even the anger and the judgment of God they had occasion to understand. But the love of God, the profound depth of His devotion to His children, they still did not fully know—until Christ came.

So feeding the hungry, healing the sick, rebuking hypocrisy, pleading for faith—this was Christ showing us the way of the Father, He who is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, long-suffering and full of goodness.”¹ In His life and especially in His death, Christ was declaring, “This is *God’s* compassion I am showing you, as well as that of my own.”

I bear personal witness of a personal, living God, who knows our names, hears and answers prayers, and cherishes us eternally as children of His spirit. I testify that amidst the wondrously complex tasks inherent in the universe, He seeks our individual happiness and safety above all other godly concerns.

In the spirit of the holy apostleship, I say as did one who held this office anciently: “Herein [then] is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (1 John 4:10–11)—and to love Him forever. ■

From an October 2003 general conference address.

NOTE

1. *Lectures on Faith* (1985), 42.

Elder Holland taught that Jesus showed us the way of the Father by showing love in all He said and did. He has invited us to love God and to love one another.

How can you show love?

You share your lunch with a friend who forgot theirs.



Christ fed the hungry.



Christ healed the sick.



You can visit and comfort someone who is sick or injured.



Christ taught the truth.



You take the opportunity to bear your testimony.



Christ pleads for us to have faith.



You can invite a friend to church.

