

## The Father's Love

Let me share with you how I came to understand how much He loves us:

One day, when I was feeling a little down and just needed some comfort from the LORD, I asked God very innocently, but very sincerely, to let me know that He loved me in some tangible way. I say tangible, because God sometimes talks to me in signs. Yes, I said signs. Most frequently, in this season, the signs have been in the form of license plates. You know, the personalized license plates people purchase for their cars. Now I know what you are thinking. You can make something apply to yourself from one of those license plates if you really stretch it. No, I don't try to stretch them and apply them like some kind of horoscope. These license plates have come as a direct answer to my most earnest prayers to the LORD in times of need.

But this day I wasn't really thinking along those lines. I just wanted the LORD to let me know he loved me in an undeniable way. Of course we have the scriptures that let us know that, but I wanted something a little more personal.

That very afternoon, while I was leaving a store parking lot an SUV happened to catch my eye. It had been parked about 5 cars down from my van. There was something strange about the license plate. You see, in North Carolina, most plates are 3 letters, a dash, and then 4 numbers. This plate had 8 letters with no spaces. As I looked, the tears started flowing from my eyes and a tremendous warm feeling of God's love flowed like warm honey over my entire being. Even as I am writing this, that feeling is overwhelming me again. The plate had the embossed letters, "ILUVUJOE" emblazoned on it. I just had to stop my van, pull out my cell phone and take a picture. Just think how much God had to love me to take the only car in North Carolina with that plate, put it in that parking lot, on that day, at that time, and get me there so I could see that God, the ruler of the universe loves me. Not only does He love us, He loves ME!

At that moment I heard the Holy Spirit speak to my heart and say that this event wasn't only to let me know that He loves me individually and personally as His child, but He wanted me to tell this story to everyone I came in contact with, and let them know that He loves them the same way. Since that time I have told this story to many people and have seen the affect it has had on their lives. Most people can't believe it until I show them the picture, but the response is almost always the same; their eyes begin to water as they start to understand the love the Father has for them. Not just "God so loves the world" in general, but the Father loves them and knows them by name.

Some people have asked me if I am someone special that God would do this for me. I tell them that I am not any more special than any other child of God, but I did one thing that most of His children don't do. I asked. I believe if you ask, Father will answer you also. Maybe not in license plates, but in a way that is very unique and special to you.

I believe that I have learned something else about the love of God for us. God is an infinite God. Now I was taught that infinity divided by anything is always still infinity. So, infinity divided by 2 is infinity as well as infinity divided by the "number of humans born since the time of creation." The answer is still infinity. So the Father loves YOU infinitely. Since He loves YOU infinitely, then you truly can say He loves YOU best. YOU are His favorite. I can truthfully say that I am His favorite without taking anything away from you. We all are His favorites.

Try this little exercise. Every time you look in the mirror, give yourself a wink and say, "I am God's favorite. He loves me best!" At first you will feel strange and probably will look over your shoulder to see if anyone is watching. But, after a while you will start believing it and it will make your day. You are God's favorite child and He loves you with an infinite love. That is why I believe the Bible can truthfully state in Romans 8:17 that we are co-heirs with Christ. Everything he has is ours because the Father loves each of us infinitely and will share His infinite riches with each of us.



**The ILUVUJOE license plate (unaltered photo)**

Blessings to YOU,

Dr. Joe Wadlinger