



## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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## LOVE-LOCKED

Love is meant to last a lifetime. To symbolize such, couples would etch their initials onto a lock, then as an expression of their undying love for one another, attach it to a railing on the Pont des Arts pedestrian bridge, click it shut, and toss the key into the Seine River. In 2015, the city of Paris removed something like 45 tons of padlocks, which was more than 700,000 locks!



It is a sad commentary that those locks meant to symbolize never ending love, but came to epitomize human love does not always last. It is true across the spectrum. A husband and wife may drift so far apart they may be challenged to remember why they said "I do". What drew them together in the first place? Human love can be ever so unpredictable, it not ought to be, but regretfully it is at times; and not only between husband and wife. Haven't you seen where family members, for whatever reason get into a snit and never resolve the issue. Time passes as does love. Lay that along side what happens between close friends, and you see how changeable human love can be. Fickle.

It is a most wonderful thing when one becomes "locked in love". A life time joined to another. A constant, unbroken. It is indeed rare when that is found, or at least it is when it found in humans, but it shouldn't be, though it is. But there is a constant and enduring love and it is within the grasp of one and all.

*"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting."* (Psalms 106:1 see also 107:1 and 118:1) Throughout the pages of the Scriptures a steady, calming reminder of God's love is made abundantly clear. As is the expression of the nature of God. *"And we have come to*

*has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."* (1John 4:16) Moreover, consider what John wrote earlier the fourth chapter. *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."* (vs 7-8)

The immutability of God is expressed clearly in Malachi 3:6, *"For I, the LORD, do not change..."* It is echoed in Hebrews 13:8, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever."* Paul in his second epistle to Timothy notes that above all God remains *"faithful"* even if we prove *"faithless"* (2:11-13) Praise be to God for His everlasting love and faithfulness and the greatest manifestation of that love is found in the sacrifice of Jesus. *"Thanks be to God for His gift! (2Corinthians 9:15) Love locked.*

*"What shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"* (Romans 8:31) *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword?"* (Romans 8:35) Valid questions to be sure. Quite honestly, the answer is obvious; we are the ones who separate self from the love of God. It need not be this way, for we *"overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us."* (Romans 8:37) Paul then goes on to note, *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:38-39) Make it a priority to be locked in with God in love (see 2John 6) (wbe)