Moving Forward – Too Much Love? – by Pam Charro

Romans 13:8
Let no debt remain outstanding except the
continuing debt to love one another ..

I once heard a friend say, "We broke up because she said I loved her too much." I have thought a lot about that statement and I am somewhat dubious as to whether too much love was really the issue.

Maybe you wonder why I would doubt that. I guess it's because most people I know are hoping to find more love and pushing love away is the last thing they would do. While I do understand that there are some folks with such trust issues or low self-esteem that they would be uncomfortable with receiving even the healthiest of love, I can't help but wonder about the quality of what is being offered when someone states it's just too much.

So, according to scripture, what is love? The famous portion of Corinthians tells us that it's patient, kind, humble and selfless. It wants what is best for the other person and is willing to sacrifice its own needs and desires for another's sake. In fact, one might argue that the biblical reference mentioned at the beginning of this article is claiming there is no such thing as too much healthy love.

It's understandably challenging to prove whether or not love that is being offered is genuinely selfless, but most people can tell. They know when someone is needy and selfish and trying to manipulate them to meet needs that God never meant to be put on them. And, in most cases, when they sense it, they will distance themselves accordingly.

It takes courage to go before God and ask him to test us in this area. To hold our love for others up to the light of God's word and presence and show us where we might be falling short. But God honors bravery and longs to transform us into selfless lovers when we ask. He understands that we need his love before we can love others well, and he's so glad when we ask for the opportunity to better experience his love. It's the only way we won't put too many expectations on others.

Then we can look forward to becoming better receivers of the love God is freely offering us, so that we can be better givers of the genuine love this world is so starved for. The truly satisfying love Jesus died to give each one of us.