

This is the Day...Friday

October 8, 2021

The Love this Life gives you

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.” (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

No family is perfect. Every family has its skeletons. But for most of my childhood, I was convinced that I had the perfect family. Like every family, we had our moments of turmoil. The daily fit my Mom would throw when she came home from a long day at work only to find out we had broken something else in the house. The nights that my brother came home late, and we caught a rare glimpse of Dad’s true anger. The punishments for bad report cards, belching at the supper table, or hitting your little brother too hard. But even with all our misgivings, in my mind, it was a perfect family.

After all my brothers had grown up and left home for college or other ventures, the day finally came for me to also move out into my own place. The night before I left, I was talking to my Mom about our family and how I will miss all we shared together. I told her I could not imagine ever loving another family as much as I loved ours. That is when Mom taught me a great lesson. She told me that the human heart is very unique and a great miracle. She said that your heart can be filled with love, so much so that you can not imagine being able to love more. But just at the right time, as life provides us with another gift of love, God just makes your heart grow larger so that you can love even more. The new love does not replace the old love. There is plenty of room for both. That is the miracle of our hearts.

I have never forgotten what Mom taught me about love. And through the years since that day, I have experienced exactly what Mom described. Now, with a family of my own, filled with children and grandchildren, it is not replacement love I feel. My heart has just grown. Do not take love for granted. Allow love to do its miraculous work in your life. Sometimes love can be risky. That same heart that grows with love’s presence can also be broken because of that love. Sometimes love is not returned and may seem empty. But love is never wasted. There is no greater measure of a life well-lived than a life which is filled with love.

On this day God has given you, strive to love. Love your family, love your church family, love your friends. Maybe even try loving that neighbor that will not mow his grass or that coworker with a bad attitude. It will not be wasted, and your heart will grow.