

HIDDEN MESSAGES OF LOVE
May 13, 2018 –Mother’s Day –I Corinthians 13: 1-13
The Church of the Covenant

As Mother has declined one of the things I miss the most, and around which I have some of the most grief, is the loss of one of her most endearing habits. She was devoted to writing little notes of encouragement and love and often hiding them in different places where you would then later discover them. The beauty of that is that I will be sad some day and then find or re-find something Mother has written. Often, it will make me laugh and cry all at the same time.

A recent one –She wrote: “Holey, Holey, Holey, is a great hymn not a description of your underwear drawer!”. I opened a large parallel Bible that she and Dad had given me when I began seminary in 1980 and tucked within it, in the passage I just read to you from I Corinthians 13 was this note: “Dearest Stuart, God bless you and keep you, as you draw near to Him, by increasing your understanding of His Holy Word. This is our wish for you at Christmas and always. We love you, Mother and Dad”

Or I was poking around my desk and opened a little drawer and discovered a little note. She wrote: “Smile, dear, dear Stuart, God loves you. So do Dad and I. So does Mimi (my grandmother). So does Bobbie (our little dog at the time) and Aunt Ruth and Uncle Rudy...and Aunt Mary and Aunt Martha (all gone now) and and and Your whole family AND congregation. Love Mother”

Just recently I was opening the little box where I keep all my old cufflinks and tie tacks, you know, all that stuff we men collect over the years and rarely wear, the little space where forgotten things go to collect dust, and discovered one of her little notes: It says simply: “Love you. God bless. Smile.” And then there’s one of her signature happy faces.

Mother’s favorite Bible verses are those I read to you from I Corinthians 13. And particularly the line where the Apostle writes: “*Love never ends*”. (I Corinthians 13: 8) She wrote in the front of my worship book, that I still use for baptisms, funerals and weddings when I was first ordained in 1983, the entire passage and then added: “Men and institutions will pass away, but God’s Word and God’s love never ends, LOVE never ends. (I Corinthians 13: 1-13).” It is the same Bible verse she selected for her and Dad’s headstone up in Brush Run Cemetery in 2016.

All these are hidden messages of God's love as expressed through a Mother's love to her son.

Ah, you see, God has also hidden away little messages of His love for us. It is why we read scripture on a daily basis. Every page and every day there is a reminder of His great love for us. And in the same way, God has hidden away a message of His great love for us in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. In the incarnation God incarnated His unending love for us in a Savior, in a person, in the purest expression of His love for us ever manifest. Jesus IS the absolute and total message of God's love as expressed to us and to our world.

Maybe you need to find a hidden message of God's love today? Maybe you need to **be** a hidden message of God's love today. Thank you, my dear Mother, for always reminding me, and especially on Mother's Day, that indeed..."*Love never ends*"...(I Corinthians 13: 8) Amen and Amen.

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IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!