

**WHEN LOVE RUNS**  
Pastor Dennis Clanton  
Woodland Church  
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How we approach God is determined by how we perceive God.

*“So Jesus told them this story: “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!” (Luke 15:3–7, NLT)*

**1. Our view of God comes from our parents.**

*“I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. ... I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.” (John 17:6, 26, NLT)*

**2. God’s love is revealed by Jesus.**

*“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!” (John 14:9, NLT)*

**a. The father allowed him to go his own way.**

*“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.” (Luke 15:13, NLT)*

**b. The father allows him to experience the tragedy of sin.**

*“...the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.” (Luke 15:16, NLT)*

*“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you,’’”*  
(Luke 15:17–18, NLT)

## **5 THINGS WE LEARN ABOUT GOD’S LOVE**

*“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”* (Luke 15:20, NLT)

- 1. His father saw him.**
- 2. His father had compassion on him.**
- 3. His father ran to him.**
- 4. His father embraced him.**
- 5. His father kissed him.**

See Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26

## **GROWTHWORK**

1. Study the walk, the talk, the miracles, the teachings, and the work of Jesus for a pure picture of the love of God.
2. Rebuke the fear of being affectionate in Jesus’ name.
3. Parents are responsible to represent and reflect God’s love to their children.
4. Be a member of a church that forgives and restores people who turn to God.