

How *Unlossible Love* Came to Be – Beatrice’s Story

I shared *briefly* how I came upon *Unlossible Love* through Beatrice during a Foster Parent Support Group which I was leading in the preface. As I prepared to develop this book, I asked Beatrice to share her account with me of how the phrase *Unlossible Love* came into existence. From the first time I heard Beatrice explain the story, I knew this was something *she* needed to share with the world. Beatrice didn’t know at the time just how important this concept would become to me and many others. I never realized just how captivating *Unlossible Love* is personally; it has literally changed my pastoral ministry in profound ways which I will explain later in this book. I will focus on Beatrice’s story and use her own words.

“The term Unlossible Love was created in foster care training, in response to a question asked by the leader. I don’t remember the question, but I sat trying to make a word for what I was trying to express. A love that cannot be lost.

To explain the term at its simplest (how I explain it to my children): “No matter if you make good choices or bad choices, Mama will always love you.” I want my children to know that my love is not contingent on their decisions. They cannot earn my love, nor can they lose my love, my love is a constant.” – Beatrice

When I first read this, I both smiled and teared up because of the beauty behind this; first because of the beauty of the heart of Beatrice and her husband Kenneth towards the children they serve in the foster care system and then because I picture this exact grace which God the Father gives each of us who call upon His Name. Think for a moment about this... think about a time when you might have “failed” God and thought to yourself, “God, I’m such an idiot for doing this...” and you feel that your failure is too great for God to have the ability to forgive or the desire to forgive

you. Maybe there is something that you are experiencing presently that you feel is making you think that God loves you less or not as much... my question is "Is that God causing you to feel this way or is it yourself? And if not either of these, is it the Church Proper (those churches which are legalistic and shame you rather than heal you) that is producing this? Or is it the way you were raised, and you believe you can't live up to the expectations that others (or yourself) have of you?" As you can see, there are MANY different factors that can influence our self-image/esteem.

"No matter if you make good choices or bad choices, Mama will always love you." I want my children to know that my love is not contingent on their decisions. They cannot earn my love, nor can they lose my love, my love is a constant." This is an important statement to ponder and learn to adopt into our relationship with not only God but with EVERY relationship we engage in. If we investigate love, we discover that love isn't something we turn on or off and it's not something we can control instead love should control each of us! Beatrice's statement to her foster/biological children brings comfort and grace to the recipient of this mercy. As I look at this through our Heavenly Father's eyes and make this personal, I hear him echoing this into my heart from the moment of my conception until the present day. Just like God, Beatrice knows that her children will make mistakes and poor choices and through those times, these children will need the *Unlossible Love* that a parent has towards their children to reassure them not only are they loved unconditionally and unendingly; they continue to have value in the relationship that they share with the parent (s).