

## The Embrace of God

St John knew that only those who are secure in the love of God are free to love others. God does not expect us to love others from the basis of cold legalism or an impossible ideal. A theologian who had struggled to follow the way of love wrote, "It pleased God by the revelation of his holiness and grace --- to bring home to me my sin in a way which submerged all the school questions in weight, urgency and poignancy. I was turned from a Christian to a believer, from a lover of love to an object of grace." (P.T Forsyth A.M. Hunter pg 17)

John writes, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us." (1 John 4:10) We all need to be loved. God made us that way. But he also supplied the answer; he loves us dearly. Once we grasp or are grasped by that then we are free to love others. We are no longer expecting them to satisfy our need to be loved.

St Augustine wrote very beautifully about God's embrace as an embrace from which we are never severed. (Augustine Confessions X:6)



*Arms stretched out  
to receive us, his  
dearly loved children.*