GREAT LOVE XL

In a book “What God’s Love Teaches Us” Lilliet Garrison says that love is the master secret to obtaining a beautiful character. She also asks the question “Do we love our friends but fail to love others outside of our comfortable social circles? I must say that some of her questions make me do some close examination of my life and actions. It also has made me look for examples of love in action.

On Monday of this past week, Kathie had an appointment with a doctor in Birmingham. I drove her to the appointment and we took Ella along with us. The waiting area was quite large, which was a blessing, so Ella and I camped in the most remote part of the room where we would interfere with the least amount of people. After a while, this lady, who appeared to be in her sixties (I say that very cautiously), came and sat down in our territory. She made eye contact with Ella and spoke to her and made a nice comment about Ella’s hair. As she sat down she took a knitting project out of her purse and began working on it. The first thing I know Ella is in the chair beside her wanting to know what she is doing. In a loud whisper I said “Ella, Ella get back over here where your toys are!” You all may not believe it, but that didn’t work. So I went to where she was and picked her up and brought her back to our corner of the remote area. Before I got sat down good Ella had a parenting magazine in her hand and was right back over there with this lady. Ella was sitting on the arm of that lady’s chair. The lady laid down her knitting, took the magazine and began making a story of all the pictures. Ella sat on the arm of her chair and did not move until Kathie was finished with her appointment. I apologized to the dear lady for keeping her from her knitting but she replied “I was doing what I enjoyed most.”

Now I know some might say that I should not have let Ella have interaction with a perfect stranger but I believe there are some good people left in this world. This lady was likely looking for the quietest place in the waiting room to do some knitting while she awaited her appointment. She could have seen my grandchild as an interruption to her plans but instead she just sat there and loved her. What’s wrong with that? I do not remember the lady’s name and have no expectation of ever seeing her again but unknowingly that lady projected to me a beautiful character and made a major investment in a child’s life. That is Great Love!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram