

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

### A Time to Love

They say that experience is the best teacher.

Once upon a time, there were two people who loved each other very much. There was a distance between them, however...an unavoidable one, so they marked off the time, as best they could, until they could be together again.

These were the “slow times,” dragging by with a kind of eternity attached to them; and much time was spent gazing out the window or at the other’s picture and carrying on the same silent conversations over and over again (for without the other’s presence, there was never a newness added to these private talks).

But, finally, the time came that they had been waiting for. They were together again and the conversations they’d daydreamed were forgotten as they moved in unplanned directions...laughing, crying, and talking all at once...and the time sped by as if it didn’t exist at all.

Young love?...a youngster away at school?...perhaps, two people separated by the daily process of “earning a living”...or even death.

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Some things can be long and difficult, but time has a way of slipping by when we are close to the ones we love:

It seems like only yesterday when my children were young.”

And, somehow, it all sounds so familiar...like being in a classroom where the teacher has presented the same idea in varying forms, so that all the children will have a chance to learn and understand.

“Love” and “distance” produce a change in our perception of “time,” with “separation” seeming to extend time to infinity and “closeness” making time rush by like the wind...an occurrence that not only we experience, but one that seems to be a part of the very nature of God, for

*“...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” [2 Peter 3:8]*

said Peter. So, maybe we’ve been given time...to love...and, in so doing, to learn that

*“God is love” [1 John 4:8]*

and

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*"...if we love one another, God abides in us."* [1 John 4:12]

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