

How Can We Name A Love by Brian Wren 1975 © 1975 Hope Publishing

If you'd like to hear the song: <https://youtu.be/fSmrfUuVlu8>

How can we name a Love, that wakens heart and mind.  
Indwelling all we know, or think or do, or seek or find  
within our daily world. In every human face  
Love's echoes sound and God is found hid in the commonplace.

If we awoke to life, built on a rock of care,  
that asked no great reward but firm assured was simply there  
We can with parents' names describe and thus adore  
Love unconfined, a father kind a mother strong and sure

When people share a task, and strength and skills unite  
in projects old or new to make or do with shared delight,  
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood  
that all should share create and care and know that life is good

So in a hundred names each day we all can meet  
A presence sensed and shown, at work at home or in the street  
Yet every name we see shine in a brighter sun  
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun

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Why do think Brian Wren capitalizes the word “Love” throughout the song?  
What do you think Wren meant by a Love “indwelling all we know, or think or do, or seek or find”? Do you feel that way?  
Do you see God in in each person? Why? If not, what can you do to change that?  
Why do you think God would hide in the commonplace?

*Ephesians 2:19-21 “Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian. What a foundation you stand on now: the apostles and the prophets; and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself! We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God.” The Living Bible<sup>1</sup>*

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that asked no great reward but firm assured was simply there  
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Take some time to consider the foundation described in Ephesians? Do you feel connected to the foundation? If you do, in what way? If not, why not?

Wren writes “Love unconfined” and then describes parents in what could be considered non-traditional ways. Do you think this could be what Wren meant by unconfined?

Can you see these aspects in God? Which ones? If not, why not? What might change your mind?

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“In the third stanza, Wren goes a step further in his exploration of God’s immanence (being with us). Not only can we know God through the people around us, but the concrete act of collaborating with others gives us a glimpse into God’s will... ‘that all should share, create, and care and know that life is good’. If we are made in the image of God, and God is Trinitarian creator, then we too find ‘shared delight’ in tasks and projects that require creativity and collaboration. Wren gives us words to sing a beautiful affirmation of our life together as a creating community in this stanza.” (History of Hymns August 7, 2017, umcdiscipleship.org)

Why does working together help people understand God’s will?

Do you find sharing a task is a “delight”? Does this help you “know that life is good”?

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What does it mean to you to connect with a “presence sensed and shown”? Why do you think Wren specified “at work at home or in the street”?

Is it easy for you to share God’s place in your life? What makes it easy? What makes it challenging? If this is something that we work at together, would that be easier? Are you willing to be a part of this type of work? How can you do that?

Wren says life and hope begin in Christ. Do you agree? Why? If not, that’s ok. Sit with the idea for a while. Hold it, look at it from different angles and when you’re ready ask God to help you find your way.

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