

Ashley N.
Grade 11, Green High School, Green
Honorable Mention, High School Division (\$50)

A Mothers Love

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."
I John 4:7*

A person's life is spent in pursuit of love. As a child you look to your parents for love. As you get older you look towards your peers for love in the form of acceptance. As a teen and young adult you look to a boyfriend or girlfriend and search for that one man or woman who will love and cherish you for the rest of your life. I would say that Love is the law of life that has meant the most to me in my life. Many people have played a big role in my life just by loving me. My mother has been a rock in my life and has shown me love in so many ways.

My first experience with love came from my mom, You see the person I call mom did not give birth to me. She is actually my birth mother's sister. While I still love both of my biological parents greatly and see them often, my aunt has been the one to provide for my physical needs and a lot of my emotional needs. This is why she deserves the title of mom. My mom has shown me love in so many ways throughout my life. She loved me so much that she took me in even though I would be an extra financial and emotional burden. She did not have to do that. She could have said I am a single woman, how in the world will I take care of a child. But she didn't. She loved me by disciplining me when I did something wrong. You are probably thinking discipline has nothing to do with love but I disagree. You see a child without discipline grows up without learning the total difference between right and wrong. When entering the real world that child would be unprepared because the real world is not forgiving with its discipline. My mother loves me so much that she wants me to grow up and be prepared for what lies ahead. Even though I sometimes lose sight of this and get frustrated I know that it is for the best.

Another way she has shown love to me is through affection. My mother and I are both very affectionate people and ever since I was a little child she has showered me with hugs, kisses, and I love you's. This has given me reassurance that no matter what bad things I could do and even if I was unsuccessful at life she would always love me. When I was a child my mom read me the book "*I Love You Forever.*" I am not sure who it is by but she would always quote it saying I love you forever, I like you for always, as long as I'm living, my baby you'll be.

Perhaps the biggest way that she has shown me love is by being an example of a Godly Woman. For my whole life all of the love that she has shown me has pointed me to an even bigger better love, the love of Jesus Christ. When I was five years old, I accepted Jesus into my heart and she has always supported me in this decision 100%. Since I was a small baby my mom has taken me to church and been willing to always take me to any church event I may have even if it keeps her up later than she would like. She always has encouraged me to trust God in every thing that I do and for that I am eternally grateful. Every day I thank God for giving me a mother who cares for me and stands by me in everything I do and most of all for helping her to show me all of the love that I have.

Some people go through their whole lives searching for love and acceptance. I feel so blessed that ever since I was born I have felt that love in so many ways. Because of my mother I do not have to look to my peers for love. Yes, I do have good friends who love and accept me, but that is not the most important things I need. I do not have to look for a boyfriend or even a husband someday. Yes, I do want to be loved in that way and hope to get married someday, but I can wait. By having a mother who loves and supports me and has lead me to the greatest love any one could ever know in Jesus Christ, I can say that love is the

law of life that has meant most to me and I hope that I can show my children the kind of love that my mother has shown me.