

## God's Love and our Love

What is Love? Where else could you find the answer but the Bible- **Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Love is everything!

**Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8**

If there was one teaching of Jesus that he wanted us to be very clear and compliant with, it was this. And like many others, the most difficult too.

And he told us not just to love but he filled us with Love. He gave it to us so we can give it to others.

**We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19**

**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9**

He not only taught us what true love was but also said how - **"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."** John 13:34-35

In simple terms and in more day to day life this came down to husband and wife too- **In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. -- Ephesians 5:28** . What plain truth? How often we feel disgusted with our selves when our love for others has failed.

So clear was the principle and the instructions. And if done, don't you think we would indeed be noticeable as God's own children. But why then do we have ego and anger and arrogance that acts as a barrier- we often think we are good but we still can't Love as he commanded us to do. What is good in being good if we can't carry out his principle command. **"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."** 1 John 5:3

Love has the power to nullify most other sins we commit knowingly or unknowingly. How many times have we seen the power of Love take away the many worries in our lives. **Above all, keep**

loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8. Yet it is so hard for us to follow. Why is this not plain and simple?

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16**

God’s love for us was expressed through the ultimate sacrifice. True Love has a cost and is unconditional. Plain and simple.

But having made that sacrifice there is no escaping the fact he Loves us without condition. (not just if you are only good or pray or do charity) God loves us all equally and always. Period.

The above is so hard to understand the only next best analogy of his love that is comprehensible could be to compare it with parental love- **“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!..“ 1 John 3:1**

Again is that too difficult to understand? Possibly not but more difficult to believe I think. And more difficult to perceive. And that by in itself is the very difficulty with Anything Divine. Anything Supernatural. Not only does God love us but He has adopted us into His family calling us sons and daughters. As Christians, we have to step into the full understanding of this, living our lives as though we believe this to be true. Well it is true!

Love takes away all fear in us. True Love begets true courage. So often it is the lack of love I guess which is the cause for cowardice and doubt. How many times have we feared to do the right or the just? How many time have we doubted God’s love for us? In simple terms the Word says- **“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7**

**There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 John 4:18**

And when we do things with Love and in Love He has promised nothing but success and victory. What a simple formula and yet too hard for us to accept- **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28**