



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 15, 2017

Heart to Heart...

The words easily flow, “I love you!” When we have someone show us kindness, we have this love for them which is good. We let the words “I love you” go easily to those we cherish a relationship with. But when a brother or sister disagrees with our cherished opinion or does something to us that hurts our feelings, suddenly this “I love you” statement is nothing but empty words. Fences go up, attitudes take place and we hold to the hurt or disagreement. Our love understanding is shallow and it is seen how easily something said or done can separate us. **“And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge...”** (Ephesians 3:19) The love of Christ goes beyond knowledge and book learning!! But it is not beyond our reach. We are called: **“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth.”** (Ephesians 3:17-18) Our roots need to be rooted in Christ’s love.

God’s love is wide (breadth)! It can reach to all humanity, not just a select race. The death of Jesus Christ, which is where love can only be learned, reaches to the ends of the earth.

God’s love is long (length)! His love is so long that there is nothing, nothing that will hold Him back from saving someone, even the Jews who had Him killed (Acts 2). He will pay whatever it takes to reconcile people to the Father. Do we learn that from the cross? It is one thing to like a person and enjoy the friendship and company but it is a completely different thing to love with the love of Christ sacrificing for one another’s well-being.

God’s love is high! He is constantly, through Jesus Christ, calling us upward into Him. It shows us to love those who disagree with us, to reach out to those who don’t care for us trying to help them see Christ’s love for them as they reach upward.

God’s love is deep! The depth of love means to love (sacrificially) those we find unlovable!! People will hurt your feelings and take advantage of you. Some are rude and difficult and makes it very difficult to love them, if we use human love. Christ still sacrificed for them and gave His life for them. We need to grasp the depth of Christ’s love by reaching out to such, looking for opportunities to get them to see and realize what God has done on their behalf.

It's one thing to talk love but it's another thing to love. We need the eyes of our hearts enlightened so we can grasp God's love for us to use His love on others. We need to stop the bolted doors and high walls. We need to come to know Christ's love which is beyond knowledge. The love of God is 'experienced' as we offer ourselves in a sacrificing way for the salvation of another. Only then can we begin being filled to the fullness of God! (Ephesians 3:19) Think about it!!!

Brent