



“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 – July 8, 2018

Heart to Heart...

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

“Walk in love!” Live your life in the love of God as Christ loved you. That’s what imitators of God do. They live in the love of Christ and allow His love to motivate and control their decisions and thinking. Paul said it this way: ***“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died.”*** (II Corinthians 5:14) Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus said the love of Christ controlled them. His love moved them and they submitted to His love. What are we called to do? Walk in the love of Christ Jesus. His love for us freed us from all our sins. His love took our place and was punished in our stead. Christ should make a difference in the way we live and think. I realize some who claim Christ never think or allow His love to influence them, and they make little progress spiritually. But there are others where His love means everything to them and they will not allow anything to come between His love for them and their love for Him. They walk in love as they live day to day and their lives are a fragrant aroma to God. They encounter difficulties with a proper attitude and look out for the best of others not themselves.

Many among us serve from the love of Christ. They may not be visible, applauded, or recognized publically but they simply love the Lord and they serve others from His love. They never cry out speaking, *“I wish people appreciated me for my service!”* No, they quietly go about their service to the Lord looking out to help where they can. Just take a close look at things around us. The up-keep of the grounds because it is needed and the love of Christ says, “I can help.” Those who fix meals for others because of the love of Christ. Those who serve in helping people move are motivated by the love of Christ. Those who teach and preach willingly, freely because of a need as the love of Christ compels them forward to fill that need. Those who make things for the sake of others using their own money do this from the love of Christ. The shut-ins that are visited because of the love of Christ. Those who write cards and notes of encouragement simply because they walk in love and are imitators of God. Those who help in the nursery so parents can glorify God without any interruptions are serving from love. To the teachers of little children to help in training because of the love of Christ.

Maybe we need to take inventory of our own lives and see how much the love of Christ controls our desires and thinking. I am so thankful for those that show us how to be imitators of God and walk in His love. How is your relationship with God in walking in His love? Do brethren see you as an imitator of God? Think about it!!!

Brent