



"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 – September 14, 2025

Heart to Heart...

Love is what the Lord is after in our hearts. There has been so much preaching on love, classes on love, why we even know the "love chapter in Scripture (I Corinthians 13). Love our neighbors. Love our enemies. Love our brothers and sisters. Love your husband. Love your wife. Love your children. Love the church. Love the Lord. We quote I John 4:8: ***"The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."***

With all this, you know what is most fascinating? Many who claim to be God's children still don't love. We see it when someone does us wrong or when someone hurts our feelings. Resentments, callousness and suspicions creep into our hearts. Hard feelings start to develop while all the time we sit in our worship, take the Supper of Jesus with Him never considering His body nor themselves in relation to Him and the church and we never give a thought about what is really happening to us. We go about our daily lives still seething about a situation, never alert to the fact that something other than the love of God has penetrated the heart.

Brethren threaten if things don't go their way they will leave or something else. Loveless! Yet very religious! Loveless! Separated from God and they don't even know it! That's the depth of deceit in our own hearts. ***"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked..."*** (Galatians 6:7) Brethren, the love that God is trying to penetrate our hearts, to change us from within has nothing to do with our emotions. The love of God has nothing to do with the way you feel. It has everything to do with your choices! To love is to think and act on what is best for the other person, not you! That's a love of sacrifice. You might feel the best is to treat them with contempt, but to act on faith is to try to reach out and reach them as that would be for their benefit spiritually. Didn't we see that in the cross? Wasn't God speaking through the death of Jesus, in this is love (I John 3:16/I John 4:10)?

The problem many faces is they never get past their emotions. They live on their emotions. Their emotions determine what they do, how they act and how they communicate with one another. They think on their emotions. God's love is received and acted on by faith, not emotions. God gave us emotions, but they weren't given to rule us! We too see this in Jesus' march to the cross. He had great emotions not wanting to die but love pushed Him forward for the benefit of others. Sometimes our mate, a brother or sister in Christ or a friend might hurt us. It doesn't matter if it is intentional or not. You are faced with a choice: act on faith or act on your hurt. We feel the hurt, but we act on faith! Faith says seek their highest good. That's giving God's love entrance into your heart. Love is the perfect bond of unity (Colossians 3:14). Emotions divide. When sinful man crucified Jesus, what did Jesus choose? Love! When Judas the betrayer was trying to act deceptive and Jesus knowing his every intention, what did Jesus choose? Love! He washed the betrayer's feet!!! Love gives and seeks. Love isn't self-seeking. Love isn't provoked to make us mad and not speak to someone because they hurt our feelings. Love reaches and heals. Love brings peace. Marriages split because one or both choose not to love. Congregations split because of self-seekers, not God seekers. People hold to hurts for years, FOR YEARS, and the whole time, God isn't being garnished and given access to the heart. They are actually dying spiritually over those years. Love isn't there and when the opportunity arises, out comes venom and hate. Could you see Jesus doing that? We need to learn to love. We need to choose love and walk by faith. Yes, love must be learned, and it can only be learned from faith placed in Christ Jesus. Love is a choice and our choice to love or not depends on if we have saving faith in the Lord. How can one be sure they are really walking with Jesus? ***"We know we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death."*** (I John 3:14) Think about it!!!

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