



"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 – March 30, 2008

Heart to Heart...

The words can be so easily said, "I love you brother or sister!" When we feel good or seem to be in our best form spiritually, it is easy to let those words out and share them with those around us. But when someone we say we love disagrees with our cherished opinions or they disagree with something we think we know from Scripture, the "I love you brother or sister" finds a quick exit. Our love for one another can be so shallow and it takes very little to separate us!

Those serious about the love of God will openly admit they know little about it. I know I am still trying to grasp it. There is a depth that our minds cannot comprehend when it comes to God's love. ***"And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge..."*** is what Paul taught (Ephesians 3:19). God's love goes beyond our reach in our minds. ***"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, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."***(Ephesians 3:17-19) In Paul's prayer, he asks God to root the saints in His love, to grasp the *breadth* and *length* and *height* and *depth* of that love.

God's love is *wide* (breadth). It can reach to all humanity, not just a select color or race. The death of His Son, which is where genuine love is learned, reaches to the ends of the earth.

God's love is *long* (length). His love is so long that there is not any thing that will hold Him back from saving someone. He will pay whatever it takes to reconcile people to Him. The death of Jesus shows us that plainly. It is one thing to like a person or enjoy being with them but it's a completely different thing to love with the love of Christ.

God's love is *high*. He is constantly, through His Son, calling us upward into Him. It shows us to love those who disagree with us, to reach out to those who do not like us and help them see Christ's love for them.

God's love is *deep*. The depth of love means God loves those we find unlovable! People who hurt us and take advantage of us or abuse us make it very difficult to love them. But not the love of God. He continues to reach out, offering His all on their behalf.

It is one thing to say, "I love you brother or sister!" But that's not the love of God. We need the eyes of our hearts enlightened so we can grasp the love that God is trying to move our lives into. We need to stop putting up doors and bolting them when someone hurts our feelings! We need to allow the love of God to move us to reaching out, even when someone does not like us. We would not pout because someone showed us the error of our way but use that opportunity to grow in the love of God. If we really allowed the love of God to motivate us in each and every circumstance, we would begin being filled to the fullness of God by being carried away with His purposes (Ephesians 3:19). Then the eyes of our heart would become enlightened. Think about it!!!

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