



Church of Christ

July 27, 2003

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

How well do you imitate God and Christ? As you live your day-to-day life, do people see Christ when they observe you? Can the beauty of Jesus be seen in you? What one thing sets the pattern for one who imitates God? **Love!** “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.” (Eph. 5:1-2)

To walk in love means you order your life in His love, allowing His love to determine your actions and thinking. Christ’s love controls your whole being! “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died.” (II Cor. 5:14) Christ’s love controlled Paul. “And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” (II Cor. 5:15) To walk in love means to stop living for yourself! Take consideration for others around us. Rather than do what you please or feel, allow love to determine what is the best course of action!

Many never think along these lines because they have not yet recognized the love of Christ. They might talk of His love for them, but it hasn’t impacted their heart. Their daily lives are lived for themselves and their own desires. Their minds are set on fleshly things. There are those with a sincere faith who Christ has impacted deeply. They desire to grow and be more like Him and will not allow anything to come between His love for them and their love for Him. They are imitators of God and Christ. Their lives are a fragrant aroma to God that is pleasing to Him. They sacrifice for Him because of love.

We have many right here who look from the love of Christ to help others. They are quiet as they go about their walk in the Lord. They don’t blow a horn to make people look at them and appreciate them. They just humbly walk with the Lord. Take a look around and think about the little things that get done around here as a sacrifice of love. Our yard is always mowed and kept up because the love of Christ says “help.” Meals are taken to the shut-in and sick because the love of Christ compels them. Clothes are taken care of to distribute to the needy because the love of Christ provides an opportunity to serve. There are a number of cards written to encourage others because God cares. Look at the ladies who keep the nursery during the assembly because the love of Christ looks for ways to help. There are those who willingly give from their heart to instruct and teach children the ways of Christ and His love. I know I’ve missed some, but not intentionally.

I just want you to reflect on your own life, looking at how the love of Christ impacts your heart. We have many imitators of God and Christ and I thank our heavenly Father for them. How about you? Think about it!!!

Brent