

Weekly Devotions: LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER 5

Our Love for God is Our Motivation to Love Others

Who we are, what we do, how we behave, live and relate to others depend on what motivates us. We can be motivated by self-interests, greed, hatred, a sense of justice, compassion for the marginalized, or wanting to look good to others, etc. For us who are redeemed by the saving grace of God, our life and conduct should be motivated by love; the love for God and the love of God.

Read 1 John 4: 7-18

Love is not just a quality which God possesses. John said emphatically that God is love (8) and love comes from God (7). The essence of God's whole being is Love. Those who are His children should be like Him overflowing with His love in the way we relate to one another.

Three times John told the early believers that they ought to and must love one another (7, 11 & 12). He said that our love for fellow believers is the irrefutable evidence that we belong to God and the absence of love in a Christian indicates that this person does not know God (8a). God loves dearly all those who are His children; how then can we hate those whom our Father loves?

John also said that we owe it to God to love one another as we are recipients of His grace and mercy (9-11). Christ had given His life for us who are unworthy that we may be put right with God. If we truly appreciate what Jesus had done for us, we too should love others, regardless of how undeserving they are of our love. Our love for God and love for one another are two sides of the same coin.

Questions to ponder

1. What is a believer motivated by his / her love for God like? What are the things he / she would do and not do? Share some changes or actions God's love has motivated you to make and to do.
2. What reasons did John give on the need for us to love one another (7-8, 11-12)? What are some reasons why we struggle loving one another?
3. According to John what are the evidences that we are abiding in God and God is abiding in us (12-16)? What does it mean to have God abiding in you?

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