

Weekly Devotions: LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER 6

The Love of God is Our Reason to Love

Many of us get discouraged when our words and deeds of love are not appreciated or there is no reciprocation. Wang Ming-Dao in his reflections reminded us that; “In learning to love one another, there is one important principle which we must pay close attention to; each of us ought to do our utmost to love people, but we ought not to expect to gain other people’s love...

When we try to obey the Lord’s teaching about loving one another, we almost invariably assume that we ought to be loved by others also. We expect people to also love us, help us, serve us and come to our aid when we are in difficulty.

The attitude of those who truly love the Lord should be: I ought to love other people, I ought to serve other people, I ought to help other people. If they love me and help me, I should regard this as grace, and I ought to give thanks for it.

If every believer thought only in terms of being loved by other people, then the exhortation to love one another would have no means of expression. But if every believer thought in terms of loving other people, the teaching that we should love one another would immediately become a reality. The church would then be filled with the spirit of mutual love.” (Taken from Wang Ming-Dao’s *Day by Day*.)

Read 1 John 4: 19-21

Let’s step out to love others without expectation of appreciation, acknowledgement or to be loved in return. Whatever we do, we do it for God and to please Him alone. The reason why we love others is because we are the recipients of God’s unconditional, sacrificial and boundless love.

The apostle John emphasized that if we say we love God yet hate fellow believers, we are liars. Our so-called love for God is false if we have no love for others in the church community. The mark of genuine faith is our love for one another.

Questions to ponder

1. Why should we be gracious and loving to fellow believers (19, 21)? How do you know that a person’s faith is not genuine (20)? How do you counsel a member who is the victim of malicious gossip in the church not to be angry and not to hate those who have spread lies about him / her?
2. Sometimes our acts of love may be seen as inappropriate. What boundaries should we draw in loving others in the church?

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