

The Love Of Christ – April 03, 2008

Greetings,

This past month a verse about the love of Christ spoke to my heart. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul writes, "For the love of Christ controls (compels) us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." When I pondered it I noticed the verse says the 'love of CHRIST,' compels us, not 'OUR love for Christ' compels us. Christ loves us so much and not only died for our sins, but the sins of the whole world. This should be the motivating factor in our walk with the Lord. "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 Jn 4:10) And not only that, but Jesus "always lives to make intercession for us." (Heb 7:25) I realize that I cannot boast in my love for God or in anything except the cross of Christ, as it is all Him. The apostle John reminds us that even our love for Christ is a direct result of His infinite love for us - "We love, because He first loved us." (1 Jn 4:19) Truly, without Him we can do nothing; yet, praise be to God, He has made it possible for us to have this love through His Spirit. In John 17:26 Jesus prayed to the Father that the love with which the Father loved Him might be in us, and Him in us. If we choose to submit our lives to God and His will for us - our sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3)- the love of God will be poured into our hearts (Rom 5:5) and will lead and control our thoughts, words, and deeds. Let us join together with Jesus and each other and pray that we will grow into this love and that it may be perfected in us.

Amen.

Featured Message:

[Cost To Following Christ](#) by Randy

Luke 14:25-30

Description: Whoever wishes to be a disciple of Christ must love Him more than his family and even his own life. Through His Spirit He will give the grace and the power to make the right choices and follow Him.

New Worship Song:

[Who Is Like The LORD](#)

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord, O servants of the Lord
Praise the name of the Lord
Bless His name, from this time forth
And forevermore

Chorus:

Who is like the Lord our God
Who dwells on high
Who humbles Himself to behold the things
In heaven and in the earth?

Bridge:

He raises the poor out of the dust
And lifts the needy from the ashes
To seat him with princes
He grants the barren a home
Like a joyful mother

God Bless,

Joey
Christ Our Life