

Love One Another – February 03, 2008

Greetings brothers and sisters,

I trust this newsletter finds you encouraged and growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As I was reading through John 15, I was encouraged to move on towards love and good deeds, especially to those of the household of the faith. I would like to share a few verses that spoke to my heart and confirmed things that I have been learning. In verse 5 Jesus says quite clearly that "he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." As I have been reminded, especially of late, we cannot bear fruit unto God unless we abide and walk in His ways. "A branch cannot bear fruit of itself." Later, in chapter 15, Jesus tell us, "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." (Jn 15:9-10) Isn't is an amazing thing to know the same perfect, holy love that God has for His Son, Jesus loves us with as well? When reading through these two verses I realized something that didn't stand out to me before. I used to read this verse as teaching us that if we keep His commandments (word) then we will be abiding in His love. But now I see it as teachings that when we are loving God with all our hearts we are keeping His commandments and abiding in Him. This may sound like the same thing, but to me the old way I read it was coming from a desire to please God not by faith, but through my human effort of keeping His law (dead works). It is for freedom the Christ set us free, the whole Law is fulfilled in this one word in the statement, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Gal 5:14) As we see in verses 12 and verse 17 of chapter 15, the commandment that we are to keep is to love one another, and not only that but, just as Jesus has love us! This is a high calling and is only possible through abiding in Him and through the love that has been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. In verse 13 Jesus gave us a description of what this love looks like. He says, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." This is the freedom that we are called to brethren. Free (ability) to "through love serve one another." (Gal 5:13) When we walk in this maner His joy will be in us and our joy will be made full. (Jn 15:11) Pray for me that the Lord will enable me to walk in this love and lay my life and my own desires down for God and His children.

In His Love,

Joey

Featured Message:

[Men Like Trees](#) by Randy

Mark 8:22-26; 1 Corinthians 3:1-7; 4:1-2; Matthew 7:15-20; 13:31-32; Luke 13:6-9; Jude 1:12; Psalm 1:1-4; Revelation 22:1-2

Description: God wants to produce in us His character of loving our enemies. He tested David and taught Him to not only love the sheep, but His enemies as well.

God Bless,

Joey
Christ Our Life