

Sunday, April 1, 2012

Practical Christianity – Walking in Love
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God is love.

In John 13 through 18 Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure. He is trying to get the truth across to them that He was going away but He was leaving the Holy Ghost in His place and they would be able to carry on and be effective. In John chapter 13 He gives them a new commandment the commandment of love.

John 13:34-35 (KJV)

³⁴A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

³⁵By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

A commandment is something that is to be carried out without option. You just do it.

On the journey we have begun to the kingdom of heaven we are to develop or have a learned behavior that we are to love one another the way that Jesus or God loves us. Jesus's/God's love is unconditional. He loves us no matter what. Even when we sin and miss the mark he loves us. He doesn't love the sin but He always loves us.

If we are to genuinely understand love first of all we are going to understand that God is a God of love. The God kind of love is within us and was shed abroad in our hearts when we accepted Jesus and became born again. It is not something we are trying to get it was shed abroad in our hearts. The challenge is learning to let it out because of past hurts, fears of being hurt again, and not trusting people we keep it closed as a way of self-preservation so as to not be hurt again. Unfortunately a closed spirit is not able to let the love of God flow out and love like God loves because God forgives Jesus forgives.

We as Christians when we come into the kingdom of God somehow believe the attitude of what you have done to me I am going to do to you. On the journey we are on and the renewing of our mind, that mindset much change to, I am going to love you like God loves me.

In Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians Paul was teaching that he was going to show a more excellent way. He had just finished teaching on the gifts of the Spirit, the miraculous, the spectacular. In chapter 13 he says even though the spiritual gifts are working in you and do not know how to let love flow through you, you are basically nothing or of no advantage. The more excellent way is learning to walk in love. This is the setting for chapter 14.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (AMP)

¹EAGERLY PURSUE and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy (^[a]interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching).

We will not learn this overnight. It takes effort and persistence. Mistakes will be made but we must keep it our aim and quest. We are to make it our aim; we are to make it our quest and we are to pursue it, and in doing so we will develop our gifts along with it. The gifts of the Spirit are far more effective if they have their foundation in God's love.

The following scriptures are God's plan for following after the God kind of love. Verses 9 and 10 would be very advantageous to pray.

Love must be developed. It is a sign of maturity.

Philippians 1:8-9 (AMP)

⁸For God is my witness how I long for and ^[a]pursue you all with love, in the tender mercy of Christ Jesus [Himself]!

⁹And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may ^[b]display itself in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment],

The love of God is not dumb. It is able to look into a person and see or view a situation and have God's wisdom working in them. The more we develop the God-kind of love the more insight we are going to have. God's love knows motives.

Philippians 1:10 (AMP)

¹⁰So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted and pure and unerring and blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling nor causing others to stumble].

Do you see the benefits from developing God's love in our lives?

Colossians 3:14 (KJV)

¹⁴And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

James 2:8 (KJV)

⁸If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Romans 13:8 (KJV)

⁸Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:10 (KJV)

¹⁰Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

There is no higher law than the law of love. I am going to pursue love!