

As the Father Has Loved Me

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands,
you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.
My command in this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

John 15:9, 10 & 12

There are many different atmospheres that we can live in. We can be busybodies and listening to the latest scoop about someone. We can be busy at work with many projects and things to juggle. We can be busy at home doing all the things necessary to support our family, dwelling and interests. Or we can be busy about the Father's work, loving others the way the He loves us.

Love is the Lord's highest aim for his body and what Paul calls "the most excellent way." Walking in his love and giving it away will bring great spiritual blessing to our lives and will please the Lord. It is our goal to please him. Nothing brings more joy to the Father's heart than when we love one another.

There can be dissension in the Body of Christ. There can be course joking and criticism. There are folks who constantly talk of what is wrong with the body. They love to point out all the problems but rarely have solutions and, even more rarely, help. They sometimes come across as prophets who have the right to rebuke God's people. But they are not prophets at all. They are critical and boast of their own accomplishments while putting others down.

The Lord has called us to build one another up. He calls us to the high road of love! I read a statement by a man of God recently. He said, "I would rather play with the forked lightening than speak a reckless word against any servant of Christ. I would rather take in my hands live wires with their fiery current than idly repeat the slanderous darts which thousands of Christians are hurling at others." Wow! He went on to say, "You may wonder why your body is not healed or your spirit not filled with joy or why you are not prospering. It may be because of some dart you have thrown idly or thoughtless gossip you have listened to without challenging. Let's remember that when we persecute the children of God we are persecuting him. To hurt the Lord in this way is not wise and will attract retribution."

Lord, let me be sensitive to the feelings of others. Give me a listening ear, not a critical one. Call me to prayer, not gossip. Help me to live a life of love and attract your attention by loving as you have loved. I pledge by highest obedience to you by remaining in your love....Amen!