

## Love Is Humble (I Corinthians 13:4)

The Corinthian church had lost the primacy of love. Some of them had taken their eyes off of Christ ("first love") and off of others and put the focus on themselves. They were using what God had given them - knowledge, for example - to draw attention to themselves. The virtue of knowledge had become a vice once it was separated from love.

It can easily happen to any of us. Become rich in our opinions but impoverished in our love and we become dangerous to the Body of Christ. Suddenly we know too much to put others' needs above our own, too much to "pick up the towel" and wash feet, too much to sit in the same room with others who don't agree with us. Maybe we were more loving when we had less "light"! None of that is consistent with the nature of Christ who is Love. Love thinks of what it can give, not get. Love draws attention to Christ and to others, not to itself. Love is willing to get on its knees, not expect others to get on their knees and bow before our convictions.

The antidote to this pull to draw attention to ourselves? To boast of ourselves in order to impress others with our faith? To look down on others who just don't get it? Humility! True love goes low, not high. It leaves any swagger or strutting on the mountain top and humbly descends into the valley. Love doesn't parade its privileges, boast of its prerogatives, but empties itself of these. It will seek the lowest place in the room, not the highest. (See Phil 2:1-11)

Paul had to remind the Corinthians, "What do you have that you have not received?" (I Cor 4:7) We go low by regularly thanking God for His grace. We have earned or deserved nothing - we have no room for boasting or self commendation. We stay low by putting others in the spotlight, not ourselves. He commands them to "let all things be done for edification", not for exhibition (I Cor 14:26). If you need a "Well done" learn to get it from God (Matt 6:4,6,18). The discipline of "secret service" can help keep you safe in this area.

The test of the spiritual life is to descend. Love builds no tabernacle on the mountain top, it seeks no applause for deeds well done, it doesn't take the head of the table... it gets on its knees. It's hard to strut on your knees, isn't it? For love to flow, we must go low!



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### *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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# GREETINGS



# CALENDAR



Valentine's Day comes just once a year. Some try to atone and "make up" for lost opportunities. Some attempt to woo and win over a future partner. Some seek to celebrate a satisfying relationship. Some go hide and hope it all to be quickly over. An awful lot of fuss about a single day on the calendar, isn't it?

However you deal with it, don't forget every day is Agape Day. Getting lost in the infinite love of God, releasing the unquenchable flow of His life to others (non-selectively!), addressing specific needs with concrete gestures of God's love - all these and more need no calendar date, no external reason, no required performance from others. His love needs no "because"!

We have only a few remaining dates left for conferences, etc in 2013. If you are, or your group is, planning an event, let us know soon.

Thank you for your gracious gestures of support and encouragement. Your prayers, notes of love, and financial gifts are deeply appreciated. We so value your part in the journey together with us!

## FEBRUARY

3,17,24  
12

CCF  
Alachua Study

## **15-17**

**One In Christ Florida Winter Retreat**

26

Ocala Study

## MARCH

1-3

Baton Rouge (225-769-8844)

## APRIL

5-7

Titusville, FL (772-563-0430)

## MAY

24-26

Dalton, PA (607-625-4612)

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself, do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others!"

Philippians 2:3-4

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