

WHAT IS TRUE LOVE?

INTRODUCTION

In the relationship between God and Man one of the greatest foundation or requirement for it to be established is obedience, which is, Man's obedience to his Creator. Out of this root called obedience grows out the vine called Love. One of the great and core attribute of God which all that obey and believe in Him identifies with is Love, by which our relationship with God becomes fruitful. Obedience precedes love. You do not need to love God as your Creator before you can obey Him as His creature, but you cannot love God as your heavenly Father without obeying Him as His child, son or servant as it were. It is not every creature of God that obeys Him that love Him, but every creature that loves God obeys Him willingly. Every creature of God was created good and to obey Him. Love is an offshoot of obedience that results from concerted relational cultivation in the process of time. Therefore, the foundation of true love is based on willful, unalloyed obedience. As we have true love there is also false love or feigned love.

In this literature we shall be dealing with what love truly is all about. Even as love is fundamental to our fruitful relationship with God, yet we find as usual a myriad of definitions and understanding of love floating around that still keeps one confused, unclear and still aching to know what love truly is. Why? Because the majority of the understandings of love that we have been given by both the Churches as an organization (CAO), their Ministers of the People (MOPs) and the world in general, of which we have exercised ourselves in have left many brokenhearted, devastated, disillusioned and yet confused as per what love really means at the end of the day. Men continue to search for the meaning of true love even in the midst of the numerous shades of definitions given to it and the practice of such today, this quite unfortunate.

The question is "Why the ambiguity concerning the meaning of love"? We believe that the answer lies in the way that we have always approached the definition and understanding of love in Christendom generally where love ought to be well defined and practiced but isn't amongst the CAO of today (**Lk 10:26; Mtt 22:29; Jam 1:26-27; I Tim 3:15**). That approach seems to stem mainly from the misplaced understanding that many deduce from the letters written by our beloved brother Paul to the churches in the New Testament. In the discussion on love, believers generally run to the book of I Corinthians chapter thirteen (13) to find its meaning and add some other epistles to cement their understanding but they can only see the characteristics of love therein but not its true meaning; for the true meaning you have to run to the Master

first and foremost to hear him (**I Cor 13:1-13; 2 Pet 3:15-18**). If something is not well defined and the understanding explicit and without ambiguity then how can such a thing be well fulfilled in the doing of it, not just in the saying.

We shall follow another approach that very few consider talk less of use, which we are mindful to follow in our various literatures and which we shall yet employ in this one, which is understanding love through the eyes of Jesus Christ our Lord and Master, his lifestyle, doctrine on it and in his relationship with God the Father as His Son, and his relationship with Man, in the form of his disciples on earth, as the Son of man. We shall also be mindful to keep in the background the various understandings we already have of love from the epistles and the Scriptures as it were, these would not be ignored.

In this literature, we are set to bring forth and make Christ's doctrine the foreground and every other the background as much as possible, in order to escape the same rigmarole that seems to be the order of the day today where the understanding of true love is concerned. The term "love" have been so misused in time past that the true meaning of it had been eclipsed, twisted, bastardized and maligned to the extent that "lust" is now seen as love today but thanks be to God for Jesus Christ, the manifest love of God sent to the world by which we not only come to know what true love is but saw it in action and its outpouring in the world for all times. The love of God in Christ is where true love can be found and defined and by his grace we shall endeavour to extricate its meaning thereby from the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures and the epistles as it were.

LOVE IS OF THE SPIRIT

Men have always talked about love yet the understanding of it had eluded many. Why? Because many view it from a carnal, fleshly point of view since they mostly see flesh as the major player in it as a game while overlooking the fact that you cannot talk about love without God if not it is not true love. The Bible makes us to know explicitly in

I Jn 4:7 for love is of God; **Vr.8** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Jn 4:24 God is a Spirit:

So we know that God is love and God is a Spirit, therefore Love is not only of the Spirit but it is a spirit that emanates from God and communicated to men's heart (**Rom 5:5**) and we know that God is the Father of spirits (**Hebr 12:9**). How come love can be seen as a spirit? Even as fear is a spirit so also is love and with love at work in you you can cast out the unclean spirit called fear that is ungodly; for greater is he that is in you that he that is in the world. **I Jn 4:4**

2 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but [*the spirit*] of power, and [*the spirit*] of love, and of a sound mind.

I Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear [*even as we have been empowered to cast out devils by the Spirit of God- Mtt 12:28; Mk 16:17*]: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Before the coming of Christ, this spirit of love that is of the Spirit of Christ had not been released and for that reason the fallen Man could not worship God in love no matter what works cum sacrifice they rendered according to the Law as a substitute, they always fell short of the glory of God as it were (**I Sam 15:19-23**). Men erroneously understood loving God as sacrificing things to Him, even till today but David had a better insight to the truth.

Ps 51:16-17 (Vr.16) For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it : thou delightest not in burnt offering. **Vr.17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise [*for it is with such that one can truly love God- Rom 12:1-2*].

God has been seeking for true worshippers but such true worshippers could not be found amongst those that went about trying to please God in the flesh (**Rom 8:8; Rom 10:1-3**), those that were born of the will of the flesh. True worshippers can only be gotten from those that are born again, born of the Spirit, of the will of God; for it is such that the Holy Ghost sheds abroad love in their hearts as it were and this was not to be possible until the appointed time in which the love of God was made manifest to us in the person of Jesus Christ at his glorification (**Jn 7:37-39; Gal 4:1-7**). Jesus Christ, the Son of God was sent by the Father to baptize us with the Holy Ghost through which the spirit of love is released in the hearts of those that he comes to indwell.

Jn 4:20-24 (Vr.22) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. **Vr.23** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

1 Jn 4:12-18 (Vr.13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

Rom 5:5 because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Love flows from the Spirit of Christ to the spirit of man, who is flesh but not in the flesh. The sons of God are those that have the spirit of love, power and of sound mind (the mind of Christ) at work in them.

Jn 1:11-13 (Vr.12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **Vr.15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **Vr.16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Gal 4:4-7 (Vr.6) And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

So whenever you talk about true love you must think of the spirit first and not the flesh. There is something else that is of the flesh that camouflages as love by which men have been deceived and kept in ignorance by, a false love that always leads to death. The children of this world have the spirit of it at work in them because they know not the spirit of love nor can they receive it being of the world. The spirit of love has to be given to you by the Lord before you can receive it, it is not found in the air; if not you cannot have true love nor operate in it and whatever else you are operating in is a deception and a falsehood as it were. **Jn 14:16-17; I Cor 2:12; Jam 4:5; Eph 2:1-3**

Love is primarily of the Spirit and not of the flesh; it emanates inwardly from the spirit unto being made manifest outwardly in the flesh in the form of good deeds/works. Any love that begins or emanates from the flesh is a feigned love that is of lust and that is what is found in the CAO and the world today even in the form of covetousness. Those that are born of the flesh and live according to the will of the flesh are found in lust while deceiving themselves that they are "in love". **Mtt 23:1-7; Lk 16:13-15; Rom 7:7; Eph 2:8-10**

Gal 5:22-26 (Vr.24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. **Vr.25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

I Jn 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? **Vr.18** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

MEN DID NOT UNDERSTAND TRUE LOVE UNTIL JESUS CHRIST CAME

The fallen man did not understand the true meaning of love under the Law until God sent Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son to teach, demonstrate and show true love to all mankind, a love that saves from sin and death through obedience to the commandment of God; a love that leads us back to the Father and causes us to walk in the way that pleases Him unto having everlasting life. We would not have known true love on earth, except through Christ that came down from heaven. **Jn 8:27-29; Hebr 13:15-16; Jn 3:13; Jn 6:38,58**

I Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:

Jn 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jn 17:25-26 (Vr.24 for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. **Vr.26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Jn 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. **Vr.18** No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. [*If no man hath ever seen God then how can any man truly know love that is of God except through His Son?*]

Jn 4: 20- 26 (Vr.22 Ye [*love*] worship ye know not what: we know what we [*love*] worship: for salvation is of the Jews. **Vr.23** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **Vr.24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. **Vr.25** The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. **Vr.26** Jesus saith unto her, "I that speak unto thee am he.

Men knew about love for God and for their neighbor by the coming of the Scriptures of the Law, but yet they lacked the Spirit in them that sows/plants love in men with contrite, humble, God fearing hearts nor the spiritual understanding in truth and the grace needed to practice it acceptably before God but went about doing things according to their own human wisdom that is from beneath. It is in Christ that the true love of God is made manifest and not outside of Christ as it were. Any form of love outside of Christ is not true love but a feigned love that shall fail and pass away in time to come.

True love is found in him that was dead and is alive forever more. It is by Christ that grace, truth, and the Spirit came. Therefore it is only in spirit and in truth that one can truly love God and be found in love. So we run not to the Law to know about true love but rather to Christ in

his teachings and the gospel instead by the Spirit which he had given to us in baptism, which unfortunately the CAO fail to do knowing not that Spirit nor do they have him in themselves.

Rom 10:3-4; Rom 2:17-29; Jn 7:19; Jn 1:17; Jn 4:23-24

I Jn 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in [*grace*] deed and in truth. **Vr.24** And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Lk 10:25-37 (Vr.25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? **Vr.26** He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? [*every CAO today interpret the Law as it suits their own hidden agenda*] **Vr.27** And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. **Vr.28** And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. **Vr.29** But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? [*the lawyer did not know who his neighbor truly is. So how would he know love like many today do not?- I Jn 4:20-21*] **Vr.36** Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? **Vr.37** And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Love is pitiful, merciful, compassionate, forgiving, caring, tenderhearted and of a willing heart as it were. Those that are hardhearted, stiff-necked and unforgiving do not have love in them. Love gives willingly and cheerfully expecting not any reimbursement in return. **Mtt 9:13,27,36; Lk 6:34-37; Lk 14:12-14; I Pet 3:8-11; Jam 5:11; Eph 2:4-5**

The true love of God was not made known to the world until He sent Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life into the world to teach and show us what love truly is. Everything that is termed as love before then had to now be examined in the light of the love of God in Christ Jesus and if it falls short of his example then such could not be true love for us to follow unto perfection. Under the law came the knowledge of sin and lust, while under grace and truth came understanding of true righteousness and love. True love leads to life eternal and not death as it were. **Jn 1:17; Jn 14:6; I Jn 4:14-19; Rom 7:7-9; Rom 3:20; Lk 1:77**

I Jn 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know [*love in*] him that is true, and we are in [*love with*] him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Without Christ in a man's life he can never know true love but what he would deceptively believe that is love is but lust of the flesh. This means that sinners do not know what true love is being without God in this world. The love of the world is lust, while the love of the Father is the true love. **I Jn 2:15-17; Eph 2:12; Jn 3:16-17**

LOVE IS TIED TO GOD'S COMMANDMENT

Before the giving of the Law by Moses, containing the ten commandments, during the dispensation of the fathers- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, there was no mention or explicitly given commandment from God for them to love Him even in the Abrahamic covenant as was the case in the Law. The covenant was based strictly on obedience to the voice of the LORD by those that held the fear of God, for therein lieth the secret of love in all generations. Willful obedience is a demonstration of love not by lips service or mouth but by demonstrated deeds and actions as it were (**Mtt 15:7-9; Tit 1:16**). Abraham's demonstration of his ultimate love for God was when he hearkened unto the voice of God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, which he went about to do as a figure of that which was to come (**Gen 22:1-3,10-18**). But God demonstrated true love for us at the fullness of time by sacrificing His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ for our salvation. **Jn 1:29; I Jn 4:10; Rom 3:23-26; Hebr 11:17-19**

Every one that God loves He gives a commandment for such a one to hearken unto and live by as it were. Anyone outside of the commandment of God is outside of the love of God. The love of God is tied to His commandment for you to obey; not obeying the commandment of God invariably shows that you do not love God in deed. They that are in disobedience do not love God and those that have not the commandment of God have not the love of God given to them as it were. Where there is disobedience and rebellion there is no love.

By the giving of the Law to the Jews and not to the Gentiles, the Jews came under the love of God as it were. During the time of Abraham God gave him circumcision as a commandment to keep by which he and his seeds were to be distinguished from other nations that were not under God's covenant as at then (**Gen 17:1-27**). Under the Law, God gave Israel the keeping of the Sabbath, a figure of rest ordained by God for His people unlike the heathen nations around them that knew not God. **Ezek 20:10-13; Jn 7:19,21-24**

Without being given and having received the commandment of God you cannot be said to have received or be in the love of God. It is those that have the commandment of God and obey them that are found in love. Jesus summarized the whole of the commandments under the Law and the Prophets into two "love" commandments, which were

Mtt 22:36-40 (Vr.37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. **Vr.38** This is the first and great commandment. **Vr.39** And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **Vr.40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Love is irrevocably tied to adherence to the commandment of God as it were; where there is no commandment or law then there can be no love. The lawless are not found in the love of God neither can they love God. You love God by obeying His commandments given to you by Him to keep. God showed love to the nation of Israel by giving them His commandments in the form of the Law to live by. The Jews had the Law while the Gentiles were without the Law and therefore without God in this world being without the hope derived from the covenant of promise God had with Israel only as it were. **Eph 2:11-12; Jn 7:19; I Tim 1:8-10; Rom 8:6-7; Rom 10:5; Exo 20:6**

I Jn 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. **Vr.24** And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. **Vr.22** And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Jn 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Jn 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son [*not many do- Jn 3:14-15*], and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

THE FIRST MAN TO BE SHOWN LOVE BY GOD

God did not tell Adam to love Him in the direct sense of using the word “love” in the commandment that He gave him, yet God’s commandment to Adam was based on love, as it were, requiring him to hearken unto His voice. God’s love for Adam was shown unto him by the commandment which He gave unto Adam by which he was to live eternally if he had been mindful to hearken unto the voice of the LORD to obey. Obedience is the basis for love, without which there can be no love. He that obeys God’s commandments willingly and truthfully from the heart, not out of compulsion, is he that loves God, while those that do so out of compulsion do not truly love God and would rebel if given the opportunity.

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. **Vr.16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **Vr.17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

But Adam did not reciprocate love towards God rather he hearkened unto the voice of his wife thereby disobeying that of God.

Gen 3:11-12,17-19 (Vr.11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? **Vr.12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **Vr.17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Adam was the first man to be shown love by God having been created in love, but it was his son after him, Abel and subsequently Enoch that reciprocated love towards God by their righteous living through faith which pleased God. **Mtt 23:35; I Jn 3:11-12; Hebr 11:4-6**

LOVE IS BASED ON RELATIONSHIP

For one to even talk about love, a relationship must be established or be in place between at least two or more persons or beings. And since we are talking of true love then one of the parties that must compulsorily be involved is God while the other party would be any of His created beings. So love is based on God's relationship with His creatures whether they be celestial beings, the heavenly hosts in heaven and/or terrestrial beings, especially human beings on earth. So any discussion about love that does not have God as the principal party involved in or behind it cannot be true love but a false, feigned love. The love of the world does not have our heavenly Father as the principal party but rather has the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air instead. And therefore the children of the world are engaged in a feigned love called lust instead with the prince of this world orchestrating and superintending over it. **2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:1-5; Eph 5:9-13; I Cor 10:16-21; Lk 4:5-7; Mk 8:36-38; Mtt 6:24**

I Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **Vr.16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. **Vr.17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Jn 13:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another. **Vr.18** If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. **Vr.19** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Jn 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

2 Cor 6:14-18 (Vr.14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Vr.15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

Love relationship usually involves fellowship between at least two or more persons. Also amongst the parties involved in a love relationship there is usually one that is greater than the other in one way or the other; a head and a body, a master and a disciple, a lord and a servant, etc (**Jn 13:16**). True love as have been revealed unto us in the New Testament, must of compulsion, involve God the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ without which such a love is feigned and would lead to eternal damnation; for our fellowship is with the Father and the Son. **Jn 14:1; Jn 12:44-45; I Jn 5:1; Jn 10:29-30**

Gal 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

I Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

I Jn 1:1-3 (Vr.3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

CATEGORIZATION OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN LOVE RELATIONSHIP

In this love relationship, we shall try to broadly categorize the parties involved in order to bring out their parts or duties in fulfilling love in the relationship as follows:

- I. Love between a master and a disciple; a lord and a servant; a head and a body.
- II. Love between or amongst peers, fellow brethren, fellow servants.

Case (I) is the love of

- a. God the Father shown to Christ the Son
- b. Christ the Son to God the Father
- c. Jesus Christ our Master to his disciples, we the saints
- d. Our love as disciples to Christ our Master
- e. Husband to his Wife
- f. Wife to her husband
- g. Parents to their children
- h. Children to their Parents

Case (II) is love between (**I Tim 5:1-4; 2 Cor 6:14-18; Mtt 12:47-50**)

- a. Brothers and Sisters
- b. Sons and Daughters (siblings)
- c. Brethren and Brethren

[A] Love as found amongst those of Case (I) is of this manner:

(i) The master, Lord, head, King, etc loves the servant, disciple, body, etc by giving him commandments that are true which make for life or tendeth unto life or commandments by which if the servant does them he shall live and not die (**Jn 14:15,21**). The Master loves by giving the servant the truth to do as commandments. God gave us Jesus Christ for us to hear him because He loves us, for by hearing Christ we love him and shall live eternally. **Jn 8:32,36; Jn 14:6; Jn 3:16; Mtt 17:5**

(ii) While a servant/disciple/body loves his master/lord/head by hearkening unto, submitting or obeying his commandments in order to live, thereby pleasing his master/lord as it were. The servant loves by obeying the commandments that are true given unto him by his master in submission. **I Pet 2:18; I Pet 3:1-7**

A master loves his servant, while the servant reciprocates the love by submitting to his master. The willing submission of a servant to the commandments of his master is seen as the love that he shows to his master; when a servant does that which pleaseth his master, that is his demonstration of love for his master. While the giving of commandments that pertaineth unto life, godliness and reward by the master to his servant in order for him to do and live by is seen as Love. So the master loves the servants by giving him commandments that pertaineth unto life, godliness, while the servant loves his master by submitting to do those commandments accordingly.

Jn 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **Vr.17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them [*otherwise unhappiness, sorrow, sadness and troubles in the flesh and soul shall be your portion*].

[B] Love as found amongst those of Case (II)

(i) The brethren are to love one another by obeying the true commandments given unto them by their master/Lord, etc on how they are to relate with one another and live with each other in peace, joy, harmony, forgiveness, understanding and good works. They are to be their brother's keeper as it were. The chief among them should be the servant of all and the greatest amongst them should be the least of all, in this is found true love relationship.

Anyone that walks in disobedience does not walk in love. Anyone that walks in rebellion, hatred, malice, lies, hypocrisy, falsehood and deception at heart does not walk in love. Anyone that walks in murmuring, complaining, regrets, envy, backbiting, evil thoughts, strife, division, discord, disarray, etc does not abide in love. If these things that constitute the works of the

flesh be found within your heart then love cannot be found therein because of defilement. We are meant to love from a pure heart and not from a defiled one. **Mtt 15:18-20; Gal 5:19-21**

God is love and God is a Spirit. The love of God is shed abroad in the hearts of men by the Holy Ghost that He gives unto such that be in Christ Jesus. Without receiving love into your heart you cannot have true love within you to showcase. **Rom 5:5**

BREAKDOWN OF CASE (I)

The very foundation or essence of what true love is all about can be grasped from (a) and (b) of Case (I), which involves the love that God the Father showed unto His Son, Jesus Christ and the reciprocal love that Christ showed towards his Father, this forms the basis for true love. By this we can see the same defined love pattern in all other relationships that involves love as it were.

How Did The Father Love The Son?

How did God the Father love Christ the Son? He gave him commandments by which he should live and please Him. **Jn 6:57**

Jn 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. **Vr.18** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jn 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. **Vr.50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting [*that is why I do them willingly and obediently*]:

Jn 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: **Vr.19** Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Jn 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father [*Christ lived by obeying every commandment the Father gave him to do that was how the Father showed love to him*]:

Mtt 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

Jn 14:31 And as the Father gave me commandment [*to live by*], even so I do [*Christ lived by doing the commandments the Father gave unto him*].

Jn 15:10 Even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love. **Vr.9** As the Father hath loved me [*How? by giving me commandments to live by*], so have I loved you:

The love of the Father for His Son, Jesus Christ, was made manifest by the commandments He gave unto him to live and walk by. The Father also gave the Son, with whom He was well pleased, of His Spirit during his baptism beyond the Jordan, to abide with him as a token of His love. Without the Spirit of God at work in Christ he could not have fulfilled the love of God, even as we without the Spirit of Christ in us cannot fulfill the love of Christ. **Jn 1:31-34; Rom 5:5; Rom 8:9; Gal 4:6; Acts 10:38**

How Did The Son Love The Father?

By the way the Son loved the Father we learn how to love the Father and him also. Christ taught us love and demonstrated it by the way he related with the Father here on earth. God is the head of Christ. He gave us an example to follow as it were.

Jn 14:31 But that the world may know that I love the Father: [*How?*] and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do [*that is how the Son loved the Father*].

Jn 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, **Vr.10** Even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Jn 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me [*How?*], because I lay down my life, that I might take it again [*for that is the commandment He gave the Son to come and do in the world-Jn 1:29*]. **Vr.18** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jn 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. **Vr.29** And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Mk 1:11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Jesus Christ the Son of God loved God the Father by obeying all the commandments that He gave him to do and thereby fulfilling His will on earth even as the Son had always done in heaven before (**Jn 17:5,24**). Jesus Christ demonstrated his love for God the Father by doing His will.

Jn 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Jn 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Jn 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Jn 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Lk 22:2 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Hebr 10:7-9 (Vr.9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.

He that loves God does His will and not his own will, thereby doing the work of God. If you say you love God and do not His will then the love of God is not in you, you are but a liar. To love God is to do His will and for such is the kingdom of God (**Mtt 7:21; Mtt 6:9-10**). Christ taught this in his parable in

Mtt 21:28-31 (Vr.28) But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. **Vr.29** He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. **Vr.30** And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. **Vr.31** Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you

How Did Christ Love Us His Disciples?

Jesus Christ loved his disciples even as the Father loved him. How? by giving them his own commandments that is unto life for them to keep by his Spirit that he giveth in baptism unto those that obey him even as the Father gave him His own Spirit and commandments which he kept. **Jn 20:21-22; Acts 5:30-32**

Jn 15:9-17 (Vr.9) As the Father hath loved me [*gave me commandment to keep*], so have I loved you [*and have given you my commandment to keep also*]: continue ye in my love. **Vr.12** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **Vr.14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **Vr.17** These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Jn 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

Acts 1:1-5 (Vr.2) Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Jesus Christ loved his disciples by giving them the true word of God, which is the truth that he received from the Father. Christ first loved us before we him (**I Jn 4:19**). Without knowing the truth you cannot know love, that is, truth precedes love. Love is found in the truth and not in a

lie wherein is found the love of the world. Love is found in knowledge, understanding and wisdom and not in ignorance, falsehood and deception. **Jn 1:17; Jn 8:44; Jn 14:6; Jn 15:5**

Jn 8:30 As he spake these words, many believed on him. **Vr.31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; **Vr.32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free [*to love truly thereafter*].

Jn 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jn 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Jn 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **Vr.7** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **Vr.8** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. **Vr.14** I have given them thy word; **Vr.17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. **Vr.19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. **Vr.25** O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. **Vr.26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Our Master Jesus Christ loved his disciples by giving his life for them and the world even as the Father hath commanded him; for the salvation of mankind. **Eph 5:1-2**

Jn 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **Vr.13** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Jn 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. **Vr.33** For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. **Vr.51** I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **Vr.17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Jn 10: 11-18 (Vr.11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
Vr.15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Rom 5:6-8 (Vr.8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

I Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:

Everyone that is baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire is sealed with the love of God and made a partaker of the beloved of the Lord as sons of God; this is the height of God's love to us in Christ Jesus. **Jn 6:27; Mtt 3:11; I Jn 3:24; Jn 20:22**

2 Thess 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **Vr.14** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Jn 3:1-3 (Vr.1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Rom 5:5 because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. [*You cannot have truly the love of God within you without having the Spirit of Christ in you*]

Acts 5:29-32 (Vr.31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **Vr.32** And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

2 Cor 1: 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; **Vr.22** Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts [*by which we received love*].

All those that are given repentance and forgiven by God via the remission of their sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ have been shown love by God as it were, this we preach in the gospel; this is the true blessing of God. Those that have not yet experienced or received the forgiveness of God cannot be said to be in the love of God as it were. God offers His love in Christ Jesus and it is left for you to accept this offer through obedience of the true gospel of salvation that we preach. **Jn 8:21-25**

Jn 1: 29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Lk 24:44-48 (Vr.46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Vr.47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:37-41 (Vr.38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:24-26 (Vr.26) Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to [*love you*] bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

How Do Disciples Of Christ Love The Father And His Son?

Those that love God know the truth and abide in the truth. How? by keeping or doing the commandments of God and the testimonies of Jesus Christ without which one cannot be said to truly love God. Before a man can say to love God truly he must have come to know who the Father and the Son is in their doctrines by the Spirit of truth, if not you would continue loving and worshipping that which you know not of ignorantly as it were. **Jn 4:20-22; I Jn 2:7-8,12-14; Rev 12:17**

Jn 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. **Vr.21** He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: **Vr.21** He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: **Vr.23** Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **Vr.24** He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: [*and my sayings/the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me*].

Jn 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **Vr.14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Jn 2:5-9 (Vr.5) His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it [*this is how we love our heavenly Father and the Master Jesus Christ*].

Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

I Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. **Vr.3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

2 Jn 1:5 but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. **Vr.6** And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard

from the beginning, ye should walk in it. **Vr. 4** I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

Love involves walking in godly commandments that the Father and His Christ gives, that is the foundation of the meaning of love. Without being given a commandment to walk in you cannot be said to have love or be in love as it were. Unfortunately that is not the fundamental definition that both the CAO and the world give concerning love today, thereby causing many to be deceiving themselves that they are walking in love by their own erroneous doctrine of it even as they walk in disobedience unto a waiting disappointment at the end. **Prov 14:12**

Jn 12:49-50 (Vr.50) And I know that his commandment is life everlasting:

We reiterate that those that love God know the truth and abide in the truth. You cannot love God truly without knowing the truth. The love of God is not found in a lie or in ignorance but in the truth and in understanding and doing of the truth. **I Jn 5:20; Jn 17:2-3; Jn 15:15; Jn 8:32; Colo 2:2-4; Hos 4:6; Isa 5:13-15**

Producing fruit by the Spirit that Christ have given to those that love him as his disciples is a demonstration of love for the Father. **Gal 5:22-25; Mtt 7:16-27**

Jn 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. **Vr.8** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. **Vr.2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Those that heareth the sayings of Christ and keepeth them are those that love him and the Father loveth them as a result thereby. Unfortunately, very few hear Christ talk less of doing what he says. If you say you love the Father but know not the Son to love also then you deceive yourself. **Lk 6:47; Jn 8:51; Jn 14:24; Jn 15:20; I Jn 5:1; Mtt 11:27**

How Do Disciples Of Christ Love One Another?

By obeying the various commandments of Christ given to us concerning how we are to relate to one another in this world, whether with enemies or with brethren; for this is how we walk by faith in love. We need to speak the truth in love, rebuking, edifying and strengthening the brethren in the faith and reproofing the works of darkness amongst enemies by our witness of the truth. **Prov 27:5-6; Mk 8:31-33; 2 Tim 4:1-5; Eph 5:6-14; Jn 16:7-13**

Jn 15:12-17 (Vr.12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **Vr.13** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **Vr.17** These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Mtt 5:43-48 (Vr.43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. **Vr.44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; **Vr.45** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:

Jn 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **Vr.35** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another [*How?*]. **Vr.14** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **Vr.15** For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Mtt 23:8-12 (Vr.8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. **Vr.11** But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. **Vr.12** And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

We demonstrate love as brethren also by forgiving one another even as Christ hath forgiven us our sins. Those that have not a forgiving heart have not love as it were. **Colo 3:12-17; Mtt 18:21-22**

Mtt 18:23-35 (Vr.35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Eph 4:1-3 (Vr.2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **Vr.25-32 (Vr.31** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: **Vr.32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

We are meant to think and seek the good of the brethren and be our brother's keeper even to the point of death. He that hateth his brother abideth not in the love of God but is a murderer, but those that truly love have eternal life abiding in them. **Phil 4:8; Jer 29:11**

I Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? **Vr.18** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. **Vr.14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. **Vr.15** Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Mtt 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Eph 5:20-21 (Vr.21) Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Hebr 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Love Between a Man And a Woman

God created Man called Adam in and through Christ in love, but God made Woman from the ribs of Man due to the desire of Adam for the flesh and by which he became separated from the love of God at the end in the garden. Adam failed to reciprocate the love that God showed him in giving him commandment by which he was to live. Why? Due to his lust for flesh in the form of the Woman he hearkened unto her voice rather than that of God. **Gen 2:21-24; Gen 3:11-12,17-19; I Cor 11:7-9**

Jam 1:12-16 (Vr.12) Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him [*Adam did not enter into this promise due to lust that brought about sin*]. **Vr.14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. **Vr.15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The thing that the LORD had for Adam was true love, which is of the will of God, but the thing that Adam had for the Woman (Eve) was lust, which is of the will of man and of the flesh. It was true love that kept them in the garden at the initial covered though naked, while it was fulfilling of lust and covetousness that exposed their nakedness and caused them to be ejected out of the garden into the world of sin.

The “love” that took place in the cursed ground of the world by Adam knowing Eve in the form of sexual intercourse is of lust by which the one flesh union prophesied in the garden was established (**Gen 4:1; Gen 2:24**). This is not true love because true love is first spiritual and not carnal. But the world with the CAO has exalted fleshly love above all other in their doctrines- Val love, falling in love, love at first sight, making love, love in the air, and the likes- this is an error. **I Cor 6:15-18; I Cor 7:1-2; Lk 20:33-36**

Love in the Spirit is true love, while love in the flesh is of lust. And in the flesh no man can please God. **Rom 8:7-9, 12-13; I Thess 4:1-9**

Lk 10:25-28 (Vr.27) And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Mtt 5:27-28 (Vr.28) But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery [*illicit sex*] with her already in his heart.

In the permissive will of the LORD for the earth called marriage, a husband, as the head of the woman is commanded to love his wife, while the woman as a wife is commanded to submit to the man as her husband, by obeying this commandment will they be found in Christ in love being joined unto the Lord in one spirit. **Gen 3:16; Eph 5:22-25; I Cor 11:3; I Pet 3:1-12; I Cor 6:17**

Colo 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. **Vr.19** Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Though the foundation of marriage in this world is based on sex, but true love in Christ found in any honourable marriage is not based on sex but on truth, faith, hope, compassion, submission and obedience. Sex in marriage shall fail in the course of time and fizzle away because it is of this world and of flesh, but true love shall never fail but endureth forever because it is of God, and of the Spirit.

Unfortunately, many have been made to think and believe that sex on its own is love and love is sex, but that is not true. Therefore many seek for sex first from a woman as a demonstration of her “love” before marriage as it were rather than wait until they are joined in honourable marriage. A woman’s consent to yield have body for the natural use of a man as her husband sexually in the covenant called marriage is at the core of her willing submissiveness to him and her recognition of him as her head. The “Eros” love that sex signifies in marriage is but a shadow or figure of the true “Agape” love that Christian couples ought to have in Christ. Do not confuse the shadow with the true (real) unto making a shipwreck of your faith. **Gen 3:16; Hebr 13:4; I Thess 4:1-5; Eph 5:23,31-33; Rom 1:26-27; I Cor 7:2-5**

Sex is for the satisfaction of the desire of the flesh, but true love is for the satisfaction of the Spirit, being a fruit of the Spirit; for he that loveth abideth in God. Sex is meant to please Man and is a woman’s demonstration of her “love” to him, but that is not the true Love that pleases God as it were because sex is of the flesh and not of the Spirit (**I Cor 6:13-18; Rom 8:8-9; Rom 12:1-2**). Men ought to please God first and foremost above self. Our Master, Jesus Christ, demonstrated this in not truncating his divine assignment by seeking to please himself first on earth in engaging in the sexual union called marriage with woman even as Adam did to his detriment and fall. In the world to come the true children of God shall not be engaged in marriage. **Hebr 13:4; I Cor 13:3-8; 2 Cor 4:4; I Jn 4:15-16; Gal 5:22,24; Mtt 19:10-12; I Cor 7:1-2,8-9,28,31-35; Lk 20:34-36; Jn 6:38; Jn 4:34**

Love Between Parents And Their Children

This relationship is still of love based upon knowing the commandments of God and keeping it. Love is predicated on obedience, without obedience to laid down commandments there can be no love. Parents love their children by giving them commandments by which they are to grow in grace, truth and the fear of the Lord. Children love their parents by submitting to obey them as it were.

Mtt 21:28-31 (Vr.28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. **Vr.29** He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. **Vr.30** And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. **Vr.31** Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first.

Mtt 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Colo 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. **Vr.21** Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. **Vr.2** Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) **Vr.3** That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. **Vr.4** And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Every one that loveth his child chastises him one time or the other for correction purposes in proper upbringing. Why? **Prov 22:6,15; Prov 23:13-14; Prov 29:15; Rev 3:19**

Hebr 12:5-13 (Vr.6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. **Vr.7** If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? **Vr.8** But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. **Vr.9** Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

The parents that let their little children come unto Christ through godly teaching and impartation of spiritual understanding in the word of God love their children, but those that keep them in the love of the things of this world, craving for them continually are wicked and foolish being carnally minded as it were. **Mk 10:13-16; I Jn 2:12-21; Rom 8:5-9**

CONCLUSION

In the world today there is so much talk about “love” which is feign and of the world, but less about the truth which came by Jesus Christ, because the world is deceived of the wicked one and knoweth not true love. There can be no true love without the truth in Christ, in short, true love is found in the truth and not in a lie. God is true, God is love and so love is true. **Jn 8:32,44; Rev 12:9; I Jn 5:19**

True love could not be possible in men that were sold under sin and subject to the captivity of death, as it were both under the law and without the law. Such are carnally minded, and are given to lawlessness. Christ came to witness about the truth and he told us all the truth that the Father sent him to reveal unto us, and gives those that obey him of the Spirit of truth that maketh free (**2 Cor 3:17**). And he gives those that truly believe in him the Spirit of life in baptism in order for them to live in his love (**Jn 10:10; Jn 7:37-39**). Christ made us to know that true love is based on the truth that bringeth light and leads one unto the understanding of the Father which art in heaven, who is love. **Jn 7:28; Jn 15:15; Jn 18:37; Jn 17:2-3; Rom 7:14; I Jn 5:20; Jn 6:57; Ps 119:105,130**

The counterfeit of love is lust which is of the flesh, but the flesh shall die. The Spirit is life and of love which is forever. Abiding in true love that is found in Christ guarantees you everlasting life in the world to come. **2 Tim 1:6-10; Jn 12:44-50; Rom 8:11-13**

The fear of the LORD in a man causes him to obey God and be found in His mercy and mercy brings him into the place of the love of God and unto His favour. **Jude 1:20-21; Eph 2:3-5; Lk 1:67-79; Ps 119:132**

In conclusion, true love is defined thus,

I Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:

2 Jn 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man [*that loveth God*].

Consider what have been said in this literature and may the Lord grant thee understanding in all things herein.

FEEDBACK

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.