



Reciprocating God's Love

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 4:11).

BulletinVCM1JN18

28 December 2016

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. **8** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. **9** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. **10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. **12** No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (I John 4:7-12).

It is true that one good turn deserves another. The story of Dr. Kalam, ex president of India, of his dad's graciousness to his mum when presented with a 'subzi' and burnt 'roti' meal illustrates the power of love and understanding.

As this year draws to a close we need to refocus on the most important thing in life - loving God and one another to the same measure that God loved us. Note principles in these salient points:

- 1) rationale for loving God (vs 7) - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God".
- 2) indispensability of love (vs 7,8) - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love".
- 3) manifestation of God's love (vs 9,10) - "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins".
- 4) compelling reason for loving (vs 11) - "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another".
- 5) demonstration of our love (vs 12) - "No man

"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (I John 4:12).

hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us"

It is very easy to pay lip service on love and miss the point that God is trying to get across to us. We need to constantly remind ourselves of the prominence, properties and permanence of love as outlined in I Corinthians 13. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity".