

KNOWING GOD IS LOVING ONE ANOTHER

*"Dear friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God
and knows God."
1 John 4:7*

REFLECTION

Love is not just a virtue that God possesses, love is an integral part of God's nature and divine character. Since God is love, we, as His followers, also have to reflect that love in our life, in our speech and actions.

Speaking of love is easy; acting in love is far more difficult. The author of 1 John exhorts his readers to walk the talk, to behave in a way that is coherent with their beliefs. If we profess to be Christians, if we profess that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour, then our lives have to reflect that reality. If we say that Christ is our Lord but do not behave in a loving manner towards the people around us, then we are being hypocritical.

However, oftentimes we are not being hypocritical when we fail to love others. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Some people can just be so unlovable and we find ourselves struggling to obey God's command to love him or her. While God commands us to love, He does not leave us helpless. In the second part of the verse, we read that a person will be able to love when he or she is born of God and knows God. The experience of being born again in Christ and having experiential knowledge of Christ in our life are necessary to help us persevere in showing love to those around us.

But how shall we obey this commandment to love one another? In 1 John 3:16, the author highlights the example of Christ in order to show us how we should love: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." Just as Jesus gave Himself for others in love, we should also learn how to give our lives to serve others, to put the interests of others before our own interests. For when we personally know and experience God's sacrificial love for us, we will be motivated to love one another in such a selfless-giving manner.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, You are our God of love! Teach us how to love one another as You have loved us. We confess that we struggle to love the people around us, but we know that because we have been born again in You, we are able to overcome this struggle. So, help us to know Your love for us in a more personal and intimate manner so that it will spur us to respond in love for You and for others. Just as You have given Your life for us, move our hearts to give of ourselves for others. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Let us thank God that church worship services are beginning to open to more congregational members to attend and that various church programmes and activities may be able to resume again with gradual easing of restrictions. Pray also for safety as various groups come together.
- Let us pray for teachers who are experiencing burnout and struggling with the increased workload due to the pandemic, that God will bring healing and refreshment to their weary souls and give them more of His grace to persevere through the challenges of teaching.
- Let us pray for the churches in Singapore, that their leadership and people will find ways to connect and fellowship with unvaccinated congregational members and make them feel accepted as fellow brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.
- Let us pray for Afghanistan and its people, that the Lord will bring peace and stability to the country. We also want to pray for the safe and smooth evacuation of all those who want to leave the country. May God provide protection and provisions for these Afghan refugees.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you
love one another."
John 13:34*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly
contact the pastoral care team via:**

Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg

Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012