

PRAYER BULLETIN #209, 30APR2022

KEEPING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

"As the Father has loved me so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."

John 15:9, 10

REFLECTION

In a world of conflict and despair where larger countries bully and bring massive destruction and deaths to smaller countries, as in Russia's invasion of Ukraine; where people who had been living together in the same country for ages decided to split along ethnic lines, as in Ethiopia and Yemen; where more people seem to be too pre-occupied with serving their self-interest with little regard for the well-being of others, as in our individualistic world; we can do with more love being shared among the nations, peoples and even members of the same family.

But this love must not be sentimental "love" which is superficial. The standard of love to emulate is that exemplified in the life and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a love that led Jesus to Calvary. It is love that considers the interest of others more than self-interest. It is a love that forgives and if required, it is a love that is generous and sacrificial.

In the context of John 15:9 and 10, if this love is to be better understood and appreciated, we have to "remain in the Lord," that is to keep close to God and to follow His commands. In other words, our love must be the fruit of a deep relationship with God. It comes out of a willingness to accept spiritual discipline of obedience to God. Failing to "remain" in Christ would keep us away from the source of true love. That will expose us to the insidious influence of counterfeit love which has no transformative power.

Christians are privilege people. We are loved by our Lord Jesus Christ. He has set a clear example for us who are loved by God to share this love with others, and to do so by deepening our relationship with Him and keeping His commands.

PRAYER

"Dear Lord, "love" is such an easy word to say, but it means nothing when it is not measured against the standard you have set for us. Teach us to resolve to remain in you and to obey your commands, and in so doing to open ourselves to your generous love. As you have loved us, teach us to share

this Christ-inspired love with people around us. In the name of Jesus who loves us and gave Himself for us. Amen."

SUPPLICATION

- In spite of the COVID pandemic and social economic upheavals, thank God that most of us in Singapore are not in want. Give thanks for the house we live in; the school our children can attend; the job that gives us regular income; the doctors, nurses, and other workers who attend to our healthcare needs. Thank God for His blessings.
- Yet while most people have been well-protected and provided, there are pockets of people in Singapore and large number of people around the world who are having problems finding enough food to feed their families; a job to pay for their daily necessities; and funds to clear their arrears in rent and utilities. Pray that our Lord will provide for those who are poor and struggling to live a decent life.
- Pray that those of us who have been materially blessed will give time and offer service to reach out to the poor and vulnerable people in our community. Ask God to place in our hearts a love for such people and an openness to be used as channels of blessings to these disadvantaged people.
- If the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Good News of hope and victory over darkness and death for a troubled world, pray that Christians will have the courage to talk to family members, friends, colleagues, school mates about the saving power of Jesus Christ, so that they too will accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

*"The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can tell;
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The wandering child is reconciled
By God's beloved Son.
The aching soul again made whole,
And priceless pardon won.*

*O love of God, how rich and pure
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure –
The saints' and angels' song."
(Frederick M. Lehman)*

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

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