

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



OCTOBER 15, 2017

Living Faith Chapel, Calgary (Solution Center)

WORD FOR THE WEEK

THE CALL TO LOVE

We bless the name of the Almighty father for giving us the grace to see the third Sunday of the last quarter of the year. Our heavenly father has given us life for 288 days this year, and will be gracious to us the remaining 77 days of the year. Every breath we breathe is a miracle and a gift from God. So, let's take out time today to worship Him for all the good gifts we have and above all the gift of life.

The call today is to love your neighbor as yourself. But the question is: why is it important to love? When you think about the call of the Christian throughout the pages of the scriptures, we are frequently called to love. Not only this, when God's character is described, we are frequently told that God is love. When Jesus was asked what the great commandment is, He responded, ***"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets"*** (Matthew 22:36-40). (NASB)

In **Phil. 1:9-11**, you will notice in the Apostle Paul's section of thanksgiving and expression of joy for the Philippian Christians, he says that it is his prayer that their "love may abound more and more". So why is love important? Why is love the building block for a life of faith in Jesus Christ? To consider this from another perspective, we are thinking about what love does and what love looks like in action. First, let us consider the primary point of Paul's prayer. He prayed to the Lord that their love would abound more and more (**Phil. 1:9**). We are able to grow in love and should desire growth in love. Paul is praying for these Christians that their love would grow and overflow. This teaches us something about love. Love does not happen to you but is a decision. Love is a choice within our control such that Paul's desire for the Philippian Christians was to have a love that grows and overflows. "Growing" means it is an abounding love. Love is not merely a feeling that you have for others but a choice that we make in our minds and hearts. It is a decision to love the Lord our God with all of our heart. In the same way, it is a decision to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is a decision to love one another. It is a decision to love in marriage. It is a decision to love our children. It is a decision to love our parents. It is a decision to grow in love. Please consider love as a work in progress. Love expands and grows as we make the decision to act in the interests of God and the interests of one another.

The emphasis is that love should grow and overflow with knowledge and discernment. Love must be guided and directed by discerning wisdom. Love must possess with it knowledge of God and Christ and the things of God. Love must also possess a moral discernment. We need wisdom and discernment to know what will be the proper act of love to show. Love is not blind. Love is not foolish. Love is wise, discerning, and judicious. In the scriptures, godly love is never spoken of as following your heart and disregarding your mind. Love must have moral discernment. Love for others must be based on the love of God. Christians are to be loving, but we are to love with moral discernment and the knowledge that comes from God. We do not just love without discernment, which the world wants. But that is not what God says. Many times, love requires doing hard things, like correcting a fellow believer or disciplining our children or even withdrawing from a person who has turned away from the Lord. Discernment is necessary so that we can actually do what is loving, not what we think is love.

May the good Lord give you the grace to exercise genuine love as you meditate on these words!

NB. If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at pastor@rccglfc.org