

MAY 7, 2021
Friday of the 5th Week of Easter
John 15: 12-17

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”

We always hear that God is love and God loves us first before we love God. We did not choose Him and love Him but He chose us and loved us in the beginning. God's love is manifested in many ways but the ultimate way God loved us is giving His Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ to us – to save us and be reconciled with the Father. Through that love, Jesus commanded us to love one another. It is not just loving one another but love as I have loved you as He said: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”¹ Christ is telling us that our love must be unqualified, unconditional, forgiving, and sacrificial – the way He showed to us – the way we need to follow. Jesus' love is ultimately expressed in dying for one's friends. By this, we, too must be ready to die for others, our expression of love for them. This love is costly and painful because we need to sacrifice and it involves loving the unlovable, ungracious and unwelcoming people with Christ's sacrificial and unending love. As Christians, we are called to love them as Jesus has loved us, and Jesus loves them, and His grace and blessings will help us to do so.

“God's love is not limited or subject to changing circumstances. It is an enduring love that has power to change and transform us to be like him - merciful, gracious, kind, forgiving, and steadfast in showing love not only for our friends, but for our enemies as well. God's love is boundless because he is the source of abundant life, perfect peace, and immeasurable joy for all who open their hearts to him. That is why Jesus came to give us abundant life through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment - a new way of loving and serving one another. Jesus' love

¹ John 15: 12 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

was wholly directed toward the good of others. He loved them for their sake and for their welfare.”² Our response to that love is our willingness to follow Him, serve other and even willingness to sacrifice and lay down one’s life for our brothers and sisters.

We are called by Jesus as His friends. It means, as friends of God, we need to have a personal, close, and intimate relationship, a union of heart and soul with Him who created us in love for love. As friends, we are called to be loyal, respectful, obedient, and follow what He commanded us to do, that is, serve and love one another. Our friendship with God must be demonstrated in our affection and total self-giving toward our brothers and sisters, without boundaries, inhibitions or discrimination.

My brothers and sisters, when we respond to the love of God, our life must be fruitful and productive in loving, caring and compassionate with one another. When we love God, our lives must be the reflection of that love. We are friends of Jesus if we obey His commandments and love one another as He loved us. So, let us show, give and share the love of God to our brothers and sisters despite difficulties, or hindrances. Love can change the world, love conquers all.

² www.dailyscripture.net