

PROOF OF ONE'S LOVE FOR ANOTHER

John 11:36

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Many were surprised at seeing Jesus display such a sympathetic emotion when He came to the tomb of Lazarus for they had heard of his strong, pointed warnings, threatenings and reprovals made to the religious authorities. Now they see Jesus tearful and sad and those there were filled with wonder.

If the affection which Jesus felt for Lazarus, revealed by His tears surprised the Jews, how great and surprising should His love for US and others appear in our eyes. Behold, how He loved Lazarus! They saw Jesus weeping at Lazarus' tomb, how much more reason may we say, "Behold, how He loved us!...see His love at Bethlehem, see His love at Gethsemane, see His love at Calvary.

One cannot look into the heart of another and see the affection that might be there, but what is in that heart can be seen in external ways which reveals its existence. Proof that there is love for another.

1. The greater the inconvenience to which one is willing to submit to or the sake of another, so great is that love for another.

- Parents love their children and will go to any and all extremes and sacrifices for them.
- Jesus was rich but for our sakes, He became poor and that through His poverty we might be rich.
- Jesus was in the form of God, but He humbled and emptied Himself and took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of our sinful flesh.
- Jesus had a glory with His Father before the world was, but He laid aside that glory and made Himself of no reputation, leaving Heaven and living a life of labor, poverty and contempt here on earth.
- Jesus submitted to be deprived for many years of the glory, the society and the wonders of heaven, voluntarily exchanging all of that for the lowest state on earth, cheerfully enduring all the inconveniences, privations and wants.
- Jesus gave up all these things because He loved us.
- Who has ever exhibited such love for another than Jesus has for us? He is our example.

2. An indication of love for another is the willingness to suffer pain for that person.

- Self-love causes one to be unwilling to suffer.
- When one is willing to suffer for the sake of another, it proves that one loves that person as he/she loves him/herself, even stronger as it counteracts self-love.
- Nobody knows the degree of bodily sufferings Jesus endured for our salvation.
 - It is one thing to read or hear of what He suffered and quite another thing to be able to actually conceive, comprehend it.
 - None of us have ever felt the whippings, the beatings, the scourgings, the nails, the agony of hanging on a cross.
 - None of us begin to know the agony of bearing the weight of divine wrath poured out upon Him as He took on our sins.
- Jesus didn't have to undergo any of what He did but He did because of His love for us.

3. Proof of one's love for another is found in the number and value of gifts given to another.

- It is concluded that the greater and more valuable a gift is the greater one's love is.
- Jesus' gifts cannot be numbered nor their value computed for He gives Himself and all that He possesses.
 - Jesus gives us pardon of countless sins, with every single sin deserving death.
 - Jesus gives holy, divine light to light up our minds, grace to purify our hearts and is always present to console and comfort us in our times of afflictions.
 - Jesus gives us heaven, everlasting life, glory, kingdoms, crowns and shares all that He has with us.
- If therefore one's love is measured by the gifts and the cost of those gifts he/she gives to another, we can only say, "what manner of love is this that Jesus exhibits?"
- Jesus has loved us, washed our sins from us with His own blood and has made us kings and priests unto God and we shall live and reign with Him forever and ever.

4. Proof of one's love for another is measured by the degree of patience born when unkindness and ingratitude is shown by another.

- To love those who are kind, affectionate and grateful is easy to do but to keep on loving when they are ungrateful, jealous, suspicious and who pay back good with evil is a hard thing to do, especially over and over again and again.
 - To love one who is like this is to have a strong unconquerable love.
- The love which Jesus has displayed for us rises far above any father or mother's love.
 - When Jesus came, he was hated, slandered, ridiculed and persecuted and it is still the same today in our own generation.
 - People are slow to believe, slow to learn, and quick to forget what He has taught them and truly Jesus has reason to say, "...O ye of little faith..."
- Week after week people make light of Jesus' invitations and treat Him with indifference and neglect, and yet He overlooks it all and comes back again with offers of mercy.
- For years Jesus has stood knocking at the door of hearts and even though they remained closed to Him, His love does not become cold and He still comes back again and again.
- Everyone should lift up his/her hands in wonder and declare, "...Behold, how He loves us!"

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus has displayed a love for people which has no parallel, which is infinitely far from being equaled by anything which the world has ever seen.
2. If the love of Jesus is so immeasurably great for us, then we ought to love Him more than any of our earthly friends and even family.
 - A refusal to love Jesus is more of a crime than to refuse to love one's very own parents.
3. How can any person be afraid of someone who loves them so and who has done so much for him/her?
4. How can any person doubt the love of Jesus Christ?