



For God So Loved, That He Gave... (John 3:16)

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The world system and its things tend to make humans selfish, **but the Kingdom system, the love of God, breaks the monopoly of selfishness and establishes a new order in our lives.** God's order, **the order of love and giving.** We no longer just live for ourselves, but **we live to give of our lives to others and are in this way a reflection of God's love in this world.** This is a wonderful truth to live by, **especially for the prophetic artist.** I say prophetic because in the Word the prophetic and artistry often go together as we have seen in earlier teachings.

The love of God releases us to be all we can be because it casts out our two main enemies, **selfishness and fear,** and drives us to do our very best for God and others. There is no fear in love but **perfect love casts out fear** (1 John 4:18). This is God's love in our hearts. As we walk in love and perform in love we yield to the lordship of love, and **God, through His love, can manifest Himself through us.**

God is love (1 John 4:16), and the ability of God is realized only in love's freedom to act while selfishness imprisons love. **In this union with Him is love made perfect, that we may have boldness and confidence to face Him in the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world** (1 John 4:17).

When I was going to try to get into Musikhögskolan in Gothenburg I remember how nervous I was, but my dear teacher and friend, Prof. Bengt Eklund, gave me a book entitled, "**Han Bär Din Börd**" (He Carries Your Burden). This book talked about trusting and resting in God because He loves us. That truth helped me to relax and commit my way to the Lord and released me to play better. I was accepted into the school, although there were other cello players that were more experienced than I was.

The only way that God is able to express His love for the world is through us, His people, who are walking in His love. **If we walk in His love, we can walk into the Father's presence (Heb. 4:16) just as Jesus did, and know that our prayers will be answered.** If we walk in love, people around us will know that God is real because we love each other with the love of God.

There is no problem of faith to confront us because we are walking in love and **faith works by love.** **We are doing the Word** (James 1:22) and letting Jesus live His life through us. Our hearts know whether we are practicing love toward men. If they need clothes and we are able to give them, and they cannot get them, then it is up to us to meet that need. We are to treat them as Jesus has treated us. **He died for us and we live for Him.**

God's love fills our hearts with compassion for the sick and afflicted. The Word tells us that Jesus was filled with compassion when He saw the masses sick and oppressed like sheep without a Shepard. As we allow that same love to fill our hearts, the Father will use our lives also to manifest God's precious love.

-May Christ (love) through your faith dwell in your hearts!

-May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely in love, so you can have the power and strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, length, height, and depth of it.

-And to really know the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge (without experience),

-That you might be filled, through all your being, with all the fullness of God (have the richest measure of the divine Presence, wholly filled, flooded with God Himself)!

- Now to Him Who, in consequence of His power (love) that is at work within us, is able to carry out His purpose and do superabundantly, far over, and above all that we dare ask or think (infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams) -- to Him be glory in the church by Christ throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen! (Amplified Version)

Words to study: John 3:16, 1 John 4:16- 18, Hebrews 4:16, James 1:22, Ephesians 3:17-21

-Roger Wågsjö