

FAITH HOPE & LOVE and the greatest of these is Love – Rev John Ohen

Last Sunday we focused on Love as in (John 3: 16)

Why does God require us to love not just himself but also to love our neighbour as yourself?

This is because God has revealed himself to us as a merciful and gracious God, full of love and compassion. By sending His only Son Jesus Christ to share in our humanity, God showed his love for us as in John 3: 16 says: "For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son ----"

God has also shown mercy and love towards us by forgiving our sins and reconciling us to himself as his beloved children through the death and resurrection of His Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

God also wants us to show this love to our neighbor as ourselves. If we really understand what God has done for us, then we are invited to show love and kindness to others and to share His love. If we fail to show mercy and kindness to others, it shows that we have not fully understood or grasped what God has done for us. We should be careful so that we do not invoke God's anger against us. We should bear in mind Jesus' parable about the unforgiving servant, who owed his master a lot of money and was let off but refused to show equal mercy to someone who owes him small amount of money.

Although Moses gave us the ten commandments, Jesus reduced it to two commandments. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first commandment, and the Second is like this, you shall love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22:37– 39). Jesus goes on to say that "there is no other commandment greater than these". God is Love and it was love that saved us. We must share this love with others as His followers.

I will like to end with a quote from Pope Francis "Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is Life is good when you are happy; but much happier when others are happy because of you."

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, at this time of great anxiety help us to live out the heart of the commandment by loving God and our neighbour to the best of our ability. We ask this through the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and our Lord. AMEN.

Bible quotation: Matthew 22. 34- 40