

## *Love is the greatest of all*

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. I Corinthians 13,13

Real love is slowly vanishing from our lives as most often lust masquerades as love. The one main difference between love and lust is that love will let go, lust will possess and control.

Some days ago my cousin got married and suddenly my aunty asked me to pray in an informal family function after wedding-maruveedu. I said yes and she asked whether I can speak a short message. I was not at all prepared at the moment. I only prayed.

Then when I thought what can I speak in such an occasion, that I came to this message.

Ravi Zacharias in one of his poignant messages said, more than a feeling love is a commitment. How true. He gave an illustration from his own life. He said when they were newly married and had the first child, he was always jumping out of bed at odd hours to take care of the li'l one, before his wife could reach out. But after some years when he's tired and his wife's tired when there is a need to help at midnight, he wished he could pretend sleeping. He then said, it is at that moment when I decide to help despite the tiredness, then love becomes a commitment.

When love is a feeling everything is magical , but once when we enter the humdrum of everyday life, love becomes more of a commitment. Some people may say it becomes a duty. May be yes or may be not, it is the way we look at it. Love always keeps giving, always forgives, always helps, never keeps account...

Love is not only a commitment, it is also a life decision. Sadly that is why many marriages break when all they want to experience is love as a feeling and not love as a commitment or a decision.

Am always amazed at the families of the generation of my parents. I don't remember my father telling me he loves me, but now when I look back I remember how much sacrifice had been in the love of our parents. There were so many Christmases they never took new dresses, there were so many ice creams they never ate so we could have an extra mouth.

Not only in my family, but I see that in many families. Love to them came at a cost. They were willing to give up so many good things so we could have them. They did not hold back their time. No facebook or parties or clubs took them away from us. Back then there was not much money but there was enough love.

It's sad to see these days couples fight among themselves for all and sundry and decide to part to build their individual lives, totally disregarding the future of their children. More money, more identity, less and less love.

There is an entire generation growing up without really knowing real love. What a big tragedy! My sister said, that these days in US or Canada parents who can't spend time with their children during weekends give their children big wads of money and drop them at Disneyland and the likes. They call the money, guilt money. Grown ups behave like children and children are so lost and have such love starved lives.

This is a very huge topic, but dear friends let us start loving one another, be it your spouse or your children or your coworker or your long forgotten friend or whomever the Lord brings you to mind. Let us love one another. If we who have received the love of Christ, start loving one another that could really make a big difference. We need the love of Christ in our workplace, in our schools, in our society, why even in our churches.

Let me finish with what John says, "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." I John 3 18.

Let us ask God to teach us to love. Who else can teach us better to love than the very Source of Love!