



Jesus' Servants Devotion

Through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13b)

Do you ever think it's a burden to be a Christian? All those things God commands us to do, all those things people expect us to do, can really wear us out. Is being a Christian really supposed to be like that?

Through love serve one another, the Apostle Paul writes. As we hear or read this verse, we might think that yet another heavy expectation is laid upon us. The Bible tells us that we are not only to serve others, we are also to *love* them. As we all know, there are some people who are not all that easy to like. Even with our loved ones, at times we may find ourselves worn out by all the things we do for them. At such times, we might almost forget that we do indeed love them. We might almost forget that we even *like* them. This is what happens when we, Jesus' servants, rely on our own definition of love. As sinners, our love for others is inconsistent at best. Our desire to serve others is often weak or even non-existent.

When Holy Scripture tells us to serve one another, it means we are to serve them through the love of God. The love of God is not that He likes us and cannot get over how wonderful we are. God's love is this: that His Son came to suffer for our salvation, to bear for us His own judgment against all the evil we have done and continue to do against Him. God's love for us in Christ Jesus saves us from sin, death, and the devil. God's love for us in Christ Jesus is constant and unchanging, despite what we may do, think, or say. God's love for us is sacrificial. God's love for us is the kind of love that God calls us to depend upon to serve others.

God's love comes to us in His Word. This Word is the written Word of Holy Scripture and it is the Word: Jesus Himself (John 1:1–4). When we are baptized, the Holy Spirit gives us faith, forgiveness for our sins, a new, eternal life, and the strength to live and serve as members of God's family. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's love lives and is at work in us. God's love motivates us to serve others as His servants who follow in the steps of Jesus. Through the sacrificial love of God, we are enabled to serve others with the same kind of love in which our God serves us. *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us* (1 John 4:10–12).

There will sometimes be challenges to serve others through love. At such times, through faith, God will work His love in us. When we find ourselves worn out, the Holy Spirit will strengthen us and help us to continue to serve others in His love. When we fall short, we can be certain that our sins and shortcomings are all forgiven and gone, dealt with and done away with through Jesus' suffering and death. Through the love of God working in our hearts, we are empowered to serve others as Jesus' servants.

Closing Prayer: Lord and Savior Jesus, we give You thanks that You loved us so much that You suffered, died, and rose again so that we are saved from our sins and have eternal life through the faith in You which You give us. Bind our hearts to Your living, forgiving, and serving love. May Your Word of love do its work of love in us, so that we may serve You by serving others through Your love. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Jesus' Servants

Written by: Pastor Jais H. Tinglund, Greybull, Wyoming
Published by: Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2019