*Friday, February 25, 2011*

**Real Love**

1 Corinthians 13:11-13 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (12) For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (13) And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (KJV)

You know, children can be high maintenance until they learn to grow up. A lot of Christians fall under the same category as well because they never look past themselves and experience the love of God which brings about the maturity. We are ending this chapter the same way that we began it, seeing the importance of the love of God and how we need to know for ourselves how to operate in it.

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. (10) Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity. (KJV)

When I was a child I wasn’t concerned about consequences, not only for myself but for others as well. I was only concerned with things that would appeal to the outward, giving no thought for the inward. When one truly matures and grows up in the Lord that process is reversed, and the love that you had for your own things is no longer first on your priority list.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (KJV)

Those that God is using in His work are those that know His love and are only concerned with building up and edifying His people. Those that don’t know Christ never mature and grow up into the person that God intended for them to be like, and end up trying to build their own following instead.

Ephesians 4:14-16 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (KJV)

In order to grow up and move past childish thinking you will need to know Christ and His doctrine personally for yourself. You shall know the truth, and the truth in love will set you free so that you can grow up and mature into the person that the Lord intended for you to be.

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (KJV)

What kind of marriage would you have if there wasn’t a love and commitment for one another? Can you truly compare the love that you have at home in the same category as what our Lord has for His church? His love is great for getting out any spiritual spots or wrinkles, and it is the real love that will get you home holy and without blemish.