GREAT LOVE XLV

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love.**  John 15:9

 There is a third part to this great verse, “continue ye in my love.” It seems that Christ gave us this command purposely preceded by God’s love for the Son and the Son’s love for us. We are to continue in the love that God loved the Son with and the love that Jesus had for us. For us to continue in this love means first: for us to continue receiving His love. Many people receive his love and forgiveness at the point of salvation but do not realize that it is necessary to keep receiving his love in order to maintain a right relationship with Christ. Much like a marriage, Christ wants to be involved in our lives. He wants to be involved in our decision making. Whether it is buying a vehicle, changing jobs, or having surgery, Jesus cares about us and wants to be a guide for our decisions. We involve him when we pray. We accept and receive his love when we follow his direction in the decisions that we make. His love is shown to us in the comfort that he wants to give us when we are sad or distressed. Sometimes it seems that it is easier to drown in our sorrow or self-pity but we can receive his love by allowing him to lead us into fields of green pastures or the next phase of our life.

 Next: to continue in his love means for us to let his love flow through us, or to love others as he has loved us. To love others when they may not seem to deserve our love is to love as Christ has loved us. Are there people who have maybe done you wrong yet they need help and you could provide that help? This is your opportunity to continue in His love. Do you have neighbors that you really do not know and they are in need? They have never done anything for you nor have they wronged you but you could help them if you chose to do so. If you help them you will be continuing in the love of Christ.

 The last part of this is to love sacrificially. Christ display of love for us was so clearly displayed on the Cross. He sacrificed his life for our sins to be forgiven. We need to love sacrificially also. It is not necessary for us to go to the cross but it may be necessary for us to sacrifice our feelings in order to love someone who has done us wrong. It could become necessary for us to sacrifice our plans so that we could make things more convenient for someone else. Maybe we could sacrifice the purchase of something that might make life easier for us in order to give to someone else so that life could become manageable for them. This is continuing in His love and this is Great Love!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram