

# **S.O.H.L.**

## **WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS**

*Pronounced "Soul"*

March 7, 2011

### **Where Is The Love?**

**1 JOHN 3:13-22 NLT** - **(13)** So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. **(14)** If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. **(15)** Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them. **(16)** We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. **(17)** If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion-how can God's love be in that person? **(18)** Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. **(19)** Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. **(20)** Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. **(21)** Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. **(22)** And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

Love is simple, but we make it hard with our tactics. We make love difficult, painful, hurtful and regrettable because we keep trying to figure out how to love right. In order to do and get the right kind of loving, we place demands, restrictions and conditions on ourselves and on those we love. Generally, it works but for the most part it does not. When we get hurt, we blame love. Love does not hurt. Falling into the traps that we set for love only makes us hurt ourselves.

Love is the experience of joy we have, when we have the courage to tell the truth. It is the power we feel when we are willing to be exactly who we are and allow those we love to do the same.

Love is not what you have been told or what you have heard or what you have seen in the pictures. Love is not a tool or a weapon. Love is the key that allows you to see more in yourself and about yourself than what you would ever dare to show to the rest of the world. Love is simple. You simply give love or you don't! You simply know love or you don't! You simply are love or you continue to fall into the traps that make you hurt yourself because you fail to acknowledge yourself as the love that you are.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

JOHN 5:39-47

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Love stands tall in the truth that it is!

