

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

March 14, 2011

Jesus Is Love

1 JOHN 4:15-21 NLT - **(15)** All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. **(16)** We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. **(17)** And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. **(18)** Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. **(19)** We love each other because he loved us first. **(20)** If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? **(21)** And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

True love to God assures believers of God's love to them. Love teaches us to suffer for him and with him, therefore; we trust that we shall also be glorified with him. We must distinguish between the fear of God and being afraid of him. The fear of God imports high regard and respect for God. Obedience and good works, done from the principle of love, are not like the submissive labor of one who unwillingly toils from dread of a master's anger. They are like that of a dutiful child, who does services to a beloved father, which benefit his brethren, and are done willingly. It is a sign that our love is far from perfect, when our doubts, fears, and apprehensions of God, are many. Let heaven and earth stand amazed at his love.

The love of God in Christ, in the hearts of Christians from the Spirit of adoption, is the great proof of conversion. This must be tried by its effects on their temper, and their conduct to their brethren. If a man professes to love God, and yet indulges anger or revenge, or shows a selfish disposition, he gives his profession the lie. But if it is plain that our natural enmity is changed into affection and gratitude, let us bless the name of our God for this seal and eternal happiness.

It is then and only then that we differ from the false professors, who pretend to love God, whom they have not seen, yet hate their brethren, whom they have seen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 13

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The way of Christ – it doesn't get any better.

March 1, 2011

