

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

## **WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS**

*Pronounced "Soul"*

**March 21, 2011**

## **Lost Without Love**

**1 JOHN 5:1-4 NLT** - (1) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. (2) We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. (3) Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. (4) For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

Have we forgotten the real meaning of love or perhaps we really never knew it? Is it possible that those who shaped and molded our lives and our world were so busy feeding, clothing, protecting us, that they missed the basic things, the foundation, the message of life? The message that there is nothing but love? All comes from it, to return to it. Have we been fooled by the mask and postures that make us feel loved and lovable? Or have we been fooled by the mask of the lures and lust that make us feel good when we don't?

What about the excitement and the enjoyment that help us forget the little pieces of ourselves, that we have given away for a few moments of passion and pleasure that camouflage the power struggle and the pain we feel when we mistake something else for love. Have we really forgotten that love is all and nothing less than the essence of everything or did we ever really know. Have we disowned love because it once appeared to be a dark evasive shadow showing us things that we did not want to see about ourselves?

Have we covered the spirit of love in black or white, good or bad, right or wrong, that loves meaning has been lost along with our sense of value, worth and wisdom? Have we become so guilty about how we love, ashamed of why we love, afraid of who we love, that the conditions, restriction, judgments and limits that we place on love and loving, has left us loveless, love mourn and love stormed? Or maybe the simple explanation is that "we have taken so much God out of love, we can no longer find ourselves in it?"

True love for the people of God, may be distinguished from natural kindness or party attachments, by its being united with the love of God, and obedience to his commands. The same Holy Spirit that taught the love, will have taught obedience also; and that man cannot truly love the children of God, who, by habit, commits sin or neglects known duty. As God's commands are holy, just, and good rules of liberty and happiness, so those who are born of God and love him, do not count them grievous, but lament that they cannot serve him more perfectly. Self-denial is required, but true Christians have a principle which carries them above all hindrances.

Faith sanctifies the heart, and purifies it from those sensual lusts by which the world obtains sway and dominion over souls. It has the indwelling Spirit of grace, which is greater than he who dwells in the world. The real Christian overcomes the world by faith; he sees, in and by the life and conduct of the Lord Jesus on earth, that this world is to be renounced and overcome. He cannot be satisfied with this world, but looks beyond it, and is still tending, striving, and pressing toward heaven. We must all, after Christ's example, overcome the world, or it will overcome us to our ruin.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

What we love, we will grow to resemble.

March 1, 2011

