



In Tandem with Jesus

...By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another...John 13: 35 (ESV).

*...Children are a gift from the Lord,
a reward from a mother's womb.
A young man's sons are like the
arrows in a soldier's hand.
The man who fills his quiver with
sons will be very blessed.
He will never be defeated when he
opposes his enemy at the city
gates...Psalm 127: 3-5 (ERV).*

**Love...the most
misrepresented and
misunderstood word of the
twenty-first century!**

They say, "Love is blind" but I say, the world is blind to love. Love *is in our faces* daily we just don't see it.

It is fascinating to think God deliberately placed in our eyes a perceived impediment that beautifully allegorises our human behaviour in regard to love.

Every human, because of the way the eye was created, has a *blind spot*. A simple way of describing the *blind spot* is that part of the retina i.e. where the optic nerve exits the back of eye, we find no *photoreceptors* and without these receptors that respond to light, any image that falls in this area, is not captured: thus we have a *blind spot*.

Love behaves in a similar way that is why the apostle Paul was inspired to write...*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened* (Ephesians 1: 18). If we are to see love as it truly presents itself we need to turn on our *loverceptors* so that the Light that shines upon our heart will respond to the hope and riches love brings. This *love*

comes from above and is omnipotent and ubiquitous and it is free... *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened"* (Matthew 7: 7-8).

You see the love that I speak of isn't about *brotherly love, eroticism* or as Walt Disney coined in the movie *Bambi, twitterpated*: it is a love that is borne of an innocence that is harvested through the Power of the Spirit and its fruit explodes with a sweetness that infuses the heart with serene joy laden with a desire to express a nature that is filled with goodness and faithfulness: a love that promotes *passionate patience* layered with a good dose of gentleness.

Let me explain by way of illustration. During this week my two eldest grandchildren came to stay with Marlies and I and the words of the Psalmist that *children are a gift of God* was never more profoundly expressed to me than in the last few days. That omnipotent and omnipresent love was overwhelmingly expressed through those two children. They themselves, like all my other grandchildren, did nothing different but loved their grandparents unconditionally.

But what struck me so powerfully was for the first time, I saw love pour out of a child like a fountain; the aura was one of pure joy. What was amazing was not the joy being expressed (for that happens all the time) but God let me actually see it as He sees it. I can only describe it as a collusion between my human spirit and the Holy Spirit dwelling within me witnessing the joy of innocent love in the countenance that was being articulated by an effervescent granddaughter as she giggled, laughed and

*...with all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one
another in love...Ephesians 4: 2*

splashed her way around the swimming pool with her older brother who in turn, reciprocated with patience and gentleness that only a six foot four Orca (the name we three affectionately gave him as he out-swam us, out-jumped us and outplayed us) would with one of its own.

It was a very serendipitous moment one that has been eternally engraved upon my heart.

What our two grandchildren were acting out in real time is beautifully expressed by God's word: *Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance. Love will never come to an end...*(1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).

Jesus is the ultimate expression of love – *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* He died so that we may experience true love: the Love that comes from above; the Love of our Heavenly Father.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me...Galatians 2:20

As with our *blind spot* God has allowed our other eye to see the *blind spot* and thus the brain receives the information from the other eye and what was blank can now be seen.

Likewise, accepting Jesus into our lives and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit can overcome our lack of seeing Love.

We need to open the eyes of our heart and allow the innocence of Love abound.

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