

“I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that They Have Addicted Themselves To The Ministry of the saints,) that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.” 1 Corinthians 16:15-16 KJV



Addiction begins with pleasure which is followed by misery or discomfort if separated from the source of pleasure. For something to be addictive, it must give pleasure. To minister, means to serve; to stand waiting until needed, but instantly attentive. It requires great stamina to be a servant. It means you may never be thanked or appreciated and almost always taken for granted. The gratitude of the saint to whom you minister is not what should addict you to the ministry. It is the Gratitude and Love from your Father that brings you pleasure. *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, ‘Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My Brethren, ye have done it unto Me.’* Knowing, that by helping a fellow saint, you have ministered to the Master Himself, you will have the same pleasure the woman with the alabaster box of ointment had when she bathed Christ’s feet with her tears. She gave of herself and her substance to demonstrate her faith and love and God was pleased. Jesus said, *“Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.”* Will your ministry be remembered by the Master? Remember, God looks on the heart. He knows your true motive for service. Even though you may have fooled many, including yourself, into thinking you did it out of love, God sees your heart and knows your thoughts. Does serving the household of faith sincerely please you, because it pleases God, or do you subconsciously seek the adulation of others? We are never told to love sinners, but we are told many times to love the Brethren. Sinners are to be sought and ministered the Truth and in that sense we love them, because love is an action not an emotion. Deeds demonstrate love, not words. In the days of Paul, a freed slave could stay as a bond servant to a master he loved by having his ear pierced. The master would take an awl and pierce his ear against the doorpost thus signifying to all he was a servant of his own will. Charity is the pierced earlobe of every bond-servant of Christ. *“Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the Truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”* Charity is the “earmark” of true faith. Serving is sometimes nothing more than consistently praying for one another, especially your pastor, because he is the one Satan would most like to see fail. If your love for God is true you will be addicted *“to the ministry of the saints.”* It will become your life’s love, because it pleases your God, the Love of your Life. You will not view it as serving, but washing the feet of your Beloved! You will never tire of a labor of love!

Minister to every saint,
Even though you sometimes faint,
Our Master on His Throne above,
Will aye reward your work of love. –CGP

Love is addictive, but is your work for God and ministry to the brethren a work of self-love or love of God? The way you can tell is if the weariness and trials of the work diminish your addiction to it. How did God and does God demonstrate His Love to us? *“God Commendeth His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, CHRIST DIED FOR US. Jesus said, ‘Love one another as I have Loved you.’* And God not only saves you, He keeps you! Love ignores the weariness and pain of toil, because it is a pleasure for them to please their Beloved!

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9 KJV