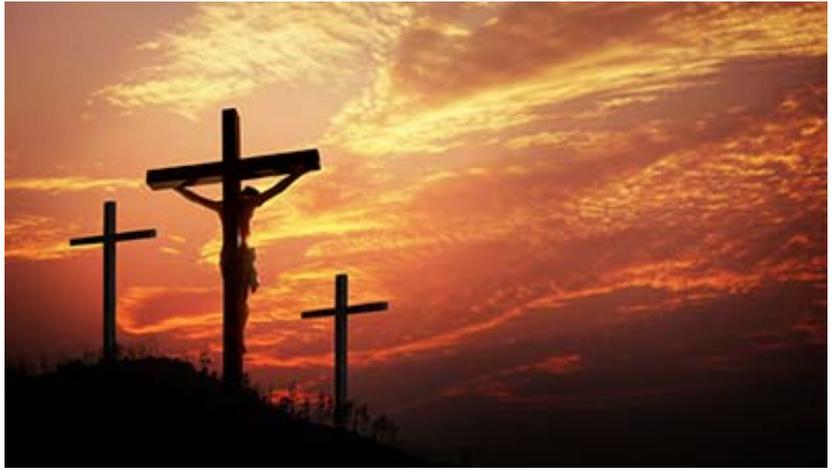


*"And above all these things put on charity, which is the **bond of perfectness**. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one Body; and be ye thankful." **Colossians 3:14-15 KJV***



The Love of God is the roadbed of Holiness. It supports every weight thrust upon it. It carries every burden, no matter how heavy, without a murmur. It endures all weather with equal aplomb. Nothing "ruffles its feathers."

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

God's Holy Love is "shed abroad in our hearts" by the Holy Spirit as God's Word in our thoughts constantly reminds us of our own sin and the Love which pardoned it. It allows us to "love the brethren" with the same sacrificial love that incited our redemption by the Saviour! Love looks beyond the fault to the need; be it the Gospel or the encouragement of our brethren. We would not be so critical of our brethren if we honestly perused our own soul. They very faults we condemn in others haunt the very corridors of our own soul! No one is exempt from the body "sold under sin," saints and unbelievers alike. Only those who "receive Him gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them which believe on His name." Some have a hard time admitting their own wretchedness before God. Once we repent and are granted salvation, we all "grow in Grace" at a different pace. We are each unique before God. Even twins sport different personalities. We must accept whoever Christ accepts; that is the repentant. "God is angry with the wicked every day!" If you do not believe and obey you are wicked! We are not tolerant of evil, but if forgiveness is sought, it must be readily available to every humble penitent. We must be quick to judge ourselves and slow to judge others. We each answer only to God. I am not your judge and neither are you mine. We are all the servants of His Majesty and He alone decides when and if punitive measures should be taken. Dealing with the blatant wickedness of a brother has been given explicit guidelines of conduct. It is always a collective effort and never an individual one. There is safety in numbers, because it allows calmer heads to prevail. "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." We should be more eager to reconcile to our brethren in Christ than to condemn. When we "love one another as Christ has loved us... [our] charity shall cover the multitude of sins." Once clothed upon with the robes of Christ's righteousness, some become proud like Lucifer and forget that any perfection is the Master's and not our own. If I am able to "keep my body under" it is Christ's power that enables me and not my own. "I...do all things through Christ," for without Him "I am nothing." Make sure there is no beam in your own eye before picking at the mote in your brother's!

Perfect in love and gratitude,
Should be my daily attitude,
Allowing Love to work through me,
Will bind the brethren perfectly. ~CGP

Obedience denies the flesh and is daily a "living sacrifice" to follow the Saviour.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 KJV