

25 October 2026

Rhythms of Grace. Love, The Guiding Motive

Greater minds than mine have written more eloquently about love than I possibly can. Here's one: "What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love Him in return. In comparison to the love of Jesus, everything else is secondary. And, without the love of Jesus, everything is useless." (Pope John Paul II). Christian love emphasises imitating Christ, showing kindness, and prioritising the well-being of others, which guides our personal relationships, community interactions, and results in our spiritual growth.

Reflect

Read Romans 5:1-8

Paul emphasises that, because of God's love for us, we (Christians) have been justified (made to be right with God, despite our sin), by the willing sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. This act is complete and fully sufficient to justify all people, past, present and future, whoever turns to Christ in faith. From that place we rejoice in God's peace.

Read 1 John 4:7-21

The Apostle John continues and expands Paul's theme, and makes clear that not only "God is love" but "his love is made complete in us." This requires a decision by us followed by ongoing action. "He has given us this command: whoever loves God must also love his brother."

Respond

As stated in the reflection last week, "Love is more than an emotion, it is a decision. (C S Lewis). A decision we firstly make deliberately and continually must remake, our guiding motive, in the hope that it will become our very nature. It's our expressions of love that makes us complete, for God lives in us, fulfilling God's purpose for us.

Clare of Assisi said, "We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others."

Thoughts to dwell on this week

"Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people." (Roy T. Bennett)

"When to give grace? I'd rather stand before God knowing I loved others too much rather than regretting that I judged too harshly." (Lysa TerKeurst)

Those in the circle of Christ had no doubt of his love; those in our circles should have no doubt about ours. (Max Lucado)

"Do not waste time bothering whether you love your neighbour; act as if you did." (C S Lewis)

Prayer: Lord, I know that one of the best ways I can show my love for you is by loving other people. Teach me to love as you love, everyone, always.