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## Relating in Love

I have found myself for some time now, continually amazed at how simple and freeing Life in Christ is. Yet, I find myself continually turning back to the things of the earth. Continually refusing to allow what IS, simply be. When I say IS, I mean Christ.

But recently, I have found myself, so very unsettled with me, which I am very thankful for. That may seem like a “Debbie downer” type of thing to say, but I am realizing it is because my heart has tasted what is True and in and of myself, I do not possess it. I realize more clearly now, that it is because I am empty. I will always be empty without Christ. There is not a single thing I can do, buy, grow, achieve or be given that will fill me. This reality is really hitting home these days and it is challenging every ounce of who I am. But, every time I surrender, I am met with an overwhelming sense of peace and contentment and hope.

The thing that is striking me, is how satisfied my heart can be in Him, knowing the truth of who I am. The reality of my soul without Christ is Ugly.

As the Lord has continued to take ground in my heart, showing Himself, which also reveals me for who I am, it has been bringing to light how I am relating to others. I will be honest, it has really revealed how quickly I am easily deterred. Although this has been a bit uncomfortable at times, I am slowly realizing that the uncomfortableness is in my flesh. You know the saying “the heart is willing, but the flesh is weak.” I was thinking about that, but as it relates to the Life at work in us. There is this “overcoming” that must take place, which encompasses our entire being. It is allowing the seed in us to grow and increase and produce fruit so that there is no question as to whether it is just a field with weeds or a Wheat field. It is in His defining, that all my members are made strong. Why, because I am not my own, and I no longer can act as if I am. Jesus said in **John 5:19**.... “Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son is not able to do anything from Himself, except what He may see the Father doing; for whatever that One does, these things also the Son does likewise.”

As my heart has been circling these things, I found myself being drawn back to **John 17:20-26**

*<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> **that all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. **May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** <sup>22</sup> I*

have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me **and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. **<sup>26</sup> I have made you<sup>[a]</sup> known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.**”

As I read this, I am blown away with this very fact. You and I, and everyone else whose heart desires to KNOW the Lord are brought together as One. There is nothing any of us brings to the table that is good. There is not one excuse any of us can use, that is OK. You and I cease to exist as Heirs of Adam and Eve. But, we leave that nature behind and we are brought in to Him, by the Cross and we are made One. It is in this Unity that we Live individually and corporately.

This morning, let that start to settle in your heart. Don't try and think about how it is going to look, but just let the Lord begin to deal with your heart. It is in that dealing that His sword will begin and continue to claim our Souls. It is there that our Souls will begin to see its purpose. It will begin to see where it is placed, who The Father is. In that Knowing, we will find the desires of His heart to fill our souls. We will begin to be constrained daily by this. We do nothing and bring nothing in. We simply wait patiently and allow the Lord to fill our vessels with His Glory. We allow Him to claim what has always been His. We allow our very purpose to be realized in that filling and there we will know, and experience Life in Him.

In all His Glory, we will find ourselves surrendering to what is true.

### **Philippians 3:12**

*Not that I have already received or already have been perfected, but I press on, if I also may lay hold, inasmuch as I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brothers I do not count myself to have laid hold, but one thing I do, forgetting the things behind, and stretching forward to those things before, I press on after a mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Then as many as are perfect, let us be of this mind; and if you think anything differently, God will also reveal this to you. Yet as to where we have*

arrived, walk by the same rule, being of the same mind. Be fellow-imitators of me, brothers, and consider those walking this way, even as you have us for a pattern. For many walk as hostile to the cross of Christ, of whom I often told you, and now even weeping I say it, **whose end is destruction, whose god is the belly, and who glory in their shame**, the ones thinking earthly things. Our citizenship is in Heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our body of humiliation, for it to be conformed to His body of glory, according to the working on Him to be able even to subject all things under Himself.

#### Philippians 4

Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. <sup>2</sup>I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And<sup>[a]</sup> I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. <sup>9</sup>The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

It is these very things that have been on my heart, it is these very things that has my heart saying. Julie it is here that you will know me and it is out from here that you will Live and experience Life with fellow believers. Do not try and Live out from your fleshly ways and think it is OK. You are lying to yourself and to others and for that you are a fool.

#### We are told in 1 Corinthians 13

**13** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned,<sup>[a]</sup> but have not love, it profits me nothing.

*<sup>4</sup>Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup>does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup>bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*<sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup>But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*

*<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

*<sup>13</sup>And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

These are the words of the Lord and we either have to taste them and be filled or we are going to find ourselves unable to partake. I know, that I know when I am partaking and when I am not. Let me just say again, IT IS NOT OK! We were created by Him and for Him. As I say these things, do not hear my voice, do not think for one second that I have something to offer you. I don't, I have only one thing to offer you out from me and that is a LIE. I say these things, because In HIM I KNOW WITH OUT A DOUBT, that THEY ARE TRUE.

I do not want to love you out from myself, because it is not love, He is LOVE and only in Him can we LOVE one another. I can't even Love my husband or my Kids (look at 1 Cor 13).