

INTRODUCED BY LOVE-JOHN 13:35

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

As Trustees, we are also Ministers. And, beyond all of the titles that we might attain in service for God, we must not forget the first designate-DISCIPLES. It does not matter what position we hold, all things must be done from the Christian properspective.

The Apostle John is known as the Disciple that Christ loved. You will find these words in the Gospel of John instead of his name. So, God has given him the inspiration to pen these words: *34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Is it not strange that even the people of God identify themselves with other markings rather than love? There is no sin in writing about and/or talking about one's accomplishments in an introduction; however, we often times leave out the “good part”---the person loves everyone. We cannot do this on our own but we are told in Deut.30:6 “And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live”.

God will circumcise our hearts. That means-He will cut away the stony heart: 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”. (Gal.5:19-21) He will give us a heart of flesh. “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another”. (Gal.5:22-26) Since we are NEW CREATURES

in CHRIST, our entire personhood is changing with the aid of The Holy Spirit. We are learning how to Walk in The Spirit. When we say: "I hope to LOVE everyone as Christ does" our hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Rom.5:5) If we have had difficulty in being introduced by love, we must keep practicing our introduction. **We will get it right;** because "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose". (Rom.8:28)

*Report to meetings on time

*We work under the authority of the Church

*Decisions are not made single-minded

*As leaders, we must be in front (tithes, offerings, service)

*Stay unified

*Service must be undergirded by love

We have been adopted into the family of God by the love of Christ when He gave Himself as a ransom for many. Now, in order for our introduction to be sure, 1John 2:5 informs us: "But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him". Paul tells the People at Corinth-1Co.8:3-"...if any man love God, the same is known of him". We are INTRODUCED BY LOVE. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." I like how simple and revealing the Bible is. Christ calling us His disciples is a very High calling and it is conditional on our love for one another. Listen as God speaks to us through the epistle (1John 4:12, 16) "No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

The Consummation of Love-(1Jn.4:17-19)

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him[a] because He first loved us.

Obedience by Faith-(1Jn.4:20-21)

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

Being a Trustee is a very high calling and it requires spending time with God. Our talent, which comes from God, is enhanced when we allow Him in our lives.