



# Berean Christian Fellowship

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## “Abide in My Love”—P5

**“May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:5).**

A Bride reflects often on her husband’s words to her. She cherishes *who* he swore to be in her life. She draws encouragement and strength through difficult times knowing that he is *who* he said he was.

The Church is no different. We reflect on the Word of God and the promises of Christ. One of the first things a bride relies on is her husband’s vow of love to her. His love for her is the most important underpinning of their relationship. Paul shares the depth of Jesus’ love for us when he stresses we can be assured that *“neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 8:48-49). Talk about love!

Love is so critical, that without it, a marriage is doomed before the couple has even left the altar. *“He who does not love abides in death”* (1 Jn. 3:14). And so, love is the most important thing between the Church and Jesus: *“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing”* (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

The love of God is our LIFE, and our love for Him is a reflection of His love for us: *“We love, because He first loved us”* (1 Jn. 4:19). We should take refuge then in the command-

ment to *“love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind”* (Matt. 22:37), for this is the love God has proven He has for us in Jesus—who demonstrated to us that *“love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth”* (1 Cor. 3:4-6). This same genuine love that Christ has shown us is the love He desires FROM His Church. A genuine love will get a marriage through the toughest challenges, for it *“bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”* (1 Cor. 3:7). There is nothing anyone can say to you that would cause you lose faith in the love of your life, because you live in their love— as Jesus told us, *“abide in My love”* (Jn. 15:9b).

And while some brides are showered with tokens as “proof” of love and affection, they are meaningless unless they proceed from genuine love, for *“love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away”* (1 Cor. 3:8). Every husband or wife leaves behind the ornaments, jewelry, and other gifts their spouse has given them when they die. Love is the last and final thing we hold onto because it does not fail. Similarly, when Jesus departed this world *“having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end”* (Jn. 13:1b) — with a love that conquered the “end” for us.

So then, if you are “His own,” live in the steadfastness of Christ. Be *“rooted and grounded in love, [so that you] may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God”* (Eph. 3:17b-19). Amen.

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