

Lent Meditation 11 25th March 2021

1Jn.4,7-12

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loves us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”



Love is the fruit of knowing God. What does not lead to love that does not come from God. The veracity of any profession to know God is established on the practice and evidence of love. No one who does not love can possibly know God. For God is love.

Human wisdom is at its most foolish and futile where it seeks to comprehend God apart from love or love apart from the knowledge of God. For only love knows God.

Love as the fruit of the knowledge of God grows out of the knowledge that God is love, the knowledge of who God is. That knowledge, since no one has ever seen God, is Christ Jesus and comes through him. *‘No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known’* (Jn.1,18). That Christ is the way by which the Father was made known means that we must know Him as love overflowing towards the lost, the needy, the crooked, the loveless etc., towards the Father-less, in mercy and grace, kindness and forgiveness. What we see Christ do, we see the Father’s love do.

On the cross, on which the Son of God died as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, and in his resurrection from the dead and his ascension into heaven, the love - greater than which there is none - was made known in such a way that by faith we come to live in Christ and he in us through the Spirit of God.

This event that is Christ’s death, resurrection and ascension leading to the sending of the Spirit to all who believe, is God giving knowledge of Himself – that He is love! – by coming to live in us.

'Since God so loved us', and how much he has is a thing always to be experienced in the forgiveness of our sins and the fellowship of the body of Christ, 'we also ought to love one another.' As Christ has:

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'