

Has Love Come?

By Rev. Connie V. Scott

The nights are longer and days colder. Colorful lights illuminate the darkened roads, and while we may be able to see our breath outside; we are greeted (most often) with the warmth of holiday wishes.

We hear the all familiar Red Cross bell ringing, and take in the sweet smell of evergreen. Yes, we've entered into the holiday season. It is the season of love, cheer and goodwill. However, I see less and less of it.

Instead of enjoying a warm beverage with a friend, we complain the red cup doesn't say, "Merry Christmas." Instead of returning the season's greeting to the store clerk, we complain because they said, "Happy Holidays."

All too often, we give out of obligation, instead of from the overflow of joy and love in our hearts; and then, we snicker at gifts received.

We don't focus our time and attentions on loving others, but focus on the acts of radical extremists, no matter whom they follow; and are ready to take up arms, round them all up and close our borders.

Has love come?

If you profess Christianity, then most likely you believe the Christmas season is a celebration of the birth of Christ. The greatest expression of love; for LOVE itself poured out love. It was this Christ-child dying to live; living to die, who reconciled man to the Source of all Life – God.

"*Love Has Come*," is the message, especially in this season, which is preached from pulpits across the globe. Yet, why does it seem the very thing we profess is the very thing lacking in most of our lives?

We take offense at the drop of a hat. We judge others for everything from the clothes they wear to where they go to church (or don't go). If people don't look like us, talk like us or believe like we do, we often cast judgment and have nothing to do with them.

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Lately, I've seen this quote passed around on social media channels. It's a powerful statement: "We should treat the janitor the same as the CEO."

Let me add to this... We should see the panhandler the same as we see the president. We should see the parishioner the same way we see the pastor. We should see the prisoner the same way we see the pardoned. We should see all people as God sees. We should see through the eyes of love.

"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all." Colossians 3:9-11

I dare say the scripture verse above is the very answer to our question. Love does not see a distinction between people. Love does not see nationality, skin color, economic status, history or religious affiliation. Love sees only one thing; a divinely inspired and created being. We are called to do the same, because we are all the same!

Matthew 6:22-23 says, *“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”*

I believe our eyes are focused on the wrong things! It is time for us to become people of single vision.

You may have noticed, the passage in Colossians doesn't say others have changed. It says, “...since you have...” The only thing we have the power to change in this life is ourselves. And, we can't do it in our own human efforts either.

Natural changes natural things, but only the Spirit can change spiritual things.

When we attempt to do good and love through human means – seeing through human eyes, our efforts will always come up short and be self-serving. Human vision sees what it wants to see. Human love has conditions. If our conditions are met, then we freely give, but if they aren't...watch out!

True Unconditional Love is a spiritual thing, has no conditions, has no boundaries and sees only perfection, because that is how Father God made it.

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

During a recent conversation with my ministry partner, she said, “...if there is an opposite to what you believe, it isn't real...”

God is the Only Power, Only Stable and Unchanging thing in this universe. If there is an opposite, it has been made in the mind of man through human effort. It isn't real.

If there is chaos that can overcome peace, then your peace isn't real. If there is a power greater than or equal to God, then your god isn't real. If there is hate or offense or judgment that can overcome your love, then your love isn't real.

Has Love come to your house?

Beloved, we are the temple of God; his dwelling place. This is the sole purpose for our being; to allow God, the Source of Life to live through us, as us. What an amazing purpose we all have! Of course, he can't do that unless we get out of the way and allow Love to love through us.

Is your house full of Light or darkness? Are you focused on carnal worldly matters or are you looking to the Author and Perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2)?

When we look at others, focusing our attentions on the things that separate us, those differences get bigger. As a matter of fact, that is all we will begin to see. We empower that which we focus on, and it actually becomes the object of our worship.

Yes, there are crazy things happening in this world, but we aren't called to see through human carnal eyes. We are called to see through the eyes of Love. When we focus on these things, they rule our lives and we will experience the chaos.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

If we aren't focused on what is seemingly going on around us, then the words of Christ above should bring great comfort and peace. He has overcome the world! And, as we keep our focus on Christ, then the things of this world grow strangely dim.

We won't see chaos; the words of the Peace-speaker will echo within and we will see this world as God sees. We won't see things in others that separate us; we will see Christ in all people.

When Love comes, things change - not because anything has changed externally, but because Love is dwelling within you and cleaning your house.

During this season, and every day of your life, allow LOVE to change your perception. Allow LOVE to give you real vision. Allow LOVE to fill your house and home. Allow LOVE to reach out and love others.

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