



Scripture Nugget – We manifest the presence of Christ when we die to our selfishness

(We are) always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh (2 Corinthians 4:10-11).

The highest form of love is sacrificial love. *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).* The deeper the love, the greater the sacrifice. A good parent hardly needs to learn to be sacrificial for the sake of the children. However, human parental love is only a little reflection of the amazing divine love God has for every one of His children. Jesus Himself tells us that God, the Heavenly Father loves the world so much that He offers His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ as a Sacrifice for atonement for the sins of the world so that salvation is open to everyone who believes in Christ (cf. John 3:16). The Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross of Calvary is the greatest sacrifice in the whole universe; it inspires us endlessly, and convinces us that God is worthy of all the love we are capable of giving from our poor human hearts. God commands us to love, sets the standard, shows the example, and gives us the power of His grace to do it. Thus, God prepares us to share His divine life and glory and be members of His Family.

We manifest the presence of Christ when we die to our selfishness. Jesus tells us that to manifest Him we must practise love in our relationship with others. *I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35).* Jesus shows us clearly what He expects from us. He gives us His commandment; it is not an option but an obligation. He gives us His own standard “as I have loved you”. It is by no means a mediocre kind of love but the unconditional, selfless, untiring love Jesus shows to us unceasingly. We are to follow His example: that we forgive others the number of times we receive forgiveness from God; that we show compassion to those who ask us for help; that we not only help others in the material and temporal sense as they need it but also have great concern for their eternal good, their eternal salvation which Christ gained at such high costs for everyone; that we set aside our own narrow selfish interests and give priority to the more pressing needs of others, that we gracefully let go our inclinations, preferences, passion, dreams, aspirations if these are not in line with God’s will; that living our lives fully and abundantly involves revolving around Christ and His Kingdom and not around ourselves as a false god. It will take a lifetime of faith and discipline to be able to live this holy truth.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, in Your teaching on love, You challenge us to rise up to Your standard when You command us to “love as I have loved you”. It is a sacrificial love that leads You to assume lowly human flesh in order to offer Yourself as a sin offering on the Cross in atonement for the sins of all. Teach me to offer myself as a living sacrifice for Your praise and glory. You said: *unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit (cf. John 12:24).* Help me die to my selfishness so that I may manifest You to others. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.