**Love One Another** II

1John 4:11-12 – *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 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.*

Children crave their parent’s love. When parental affection is lacking, it leads to troubling and even criminal behavior. In fact, statistics reveal that one of the leading contributors to delinquency, poor grades, and overall bad outcomes in children is the absence of a father figure in the child’s life. One of the ways this can show itself is in bitter sibling rivalries. If children believe their parent’s love for them is hard to come by, they will see their siblings as opponents to be defeated in the competition to gain their parent’s approval.

This is why it is so important for Christians to understand that God has enough love to go around. The fact that others are loved, does not diminish our heavenly Father’s ability to love us. If we are confident in God’s love for us, we are set free from the kind of competition between brothers that led Cain to murder Abel. We must not allow petty envy and jealousies to disrupt the fellowship God want’s His children to share among themselves.

Here are some ways you can overcome envy and show love for your brothers and sisters:

1. Rejoice when God blesses someone else with an honor you would like to have yourself.
2. Pray for a brother who is in need of a blessing that you also need.
3. Compliment someone else on their children’s behavior or accomplishment.
4. If any of the above are difficult for you to do, continue to pray that God would help you overcome envy and give you more confidence in His love for you.