**Love One Another** IV

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.*

The fear of punishment can sometimes keep us from doing bad things. However, fear seems to be inadequate to motivate us to do good things. In order to pursue good works with a whole heart we need a higher motive.

The greatest motive is love. Love is at the very heart of God’s own character and is the fuel that powers His own actions. Before the world was ever created, the Father loved the Son. After creation and man’s fall into sin, it was God’s love that motivated Him to send His Son to redeem us from ruin. It is this motivation that takes hold of us and changes us into the kind of people who are willing to love others even to the point of self-sacrifice.

Consider Paul’s words in 1Corinthians thirteen about love. At whatever point you feel that you are lacking, reflect on how God has dealt with you in that way. The more you reflect on that, the better you will be able to show it to others.

1 Cor 13:4-7 Love is:

 patient,

 kind,

 does not envy,

 it does not boast,

 it is not proud.

 It is not rude,

 it is not self-seeking,

 it is not easily angered,

 it keeps no record of wrongs.

 It does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.