



Achieving Christ's Love

*"I have made a covenant with my eyes;
How then could I gaze at a virgin?"
—Job 31:1*

*"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good
conscience and a sincere faith."
—1 Timothy 1:5*

*What do these 2 verses have in common? Well, for me,
they're both answers to prayer.*

I once foolishly railed at God, "How do You expect me **NOT** to lust after women, seeing how you made them so desirable? It's impossible!"

After He stopped chuckling He pointed me to Job 31:1. You see, lust isn't a "natural" result of women's appearance, it's the result of that on which I've focused my own eyes, my own thoughts. The longer you stare at it with nothing but all the bad thoughts and descriptions of one's lust to go with it, the stronger lust becomes. If you make a covenant with your eye to see women as God sees them, and not as man desires them, you're on the road to controlling lust.

Since I'm not a very quick study, I went on to rail again, "But how am I supposed to 'love' as Jesus loved? **HE'S** 'Jesus', and I'm not! It's impossible for a mere human— especially **ME**— to 'love' biblically!"

He directed me to 1 Timothy 1:5. It seems that supernaturally acquiring Christ's love so that it automatically replaces **MY** crummy

love **IS** impossible. Just as the eye has to be redirected in order to control lust, one's heart, conscience and walk must be redirected in order to reproduce Christ's love in our behavior and character.

"*A pure heart*" is an unpolluted heart, one that avoids and shuns sin. How is biblical purity achieved?

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word."

—*Psalm 119:9*

"*A good conscience*" is not just knowing intellectually what is biblically right and wrong, but following through with obedience so that our behavior becomes conditioned to always act accordingly.

"Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things."

—*Hebrews 13:18*

Since "faith" in both Greek and Hebrew can also be translated "faithfulness", "*a sincere faith*" is a right walk with God, never wavering in our devotion and obedience as His bride. Above Him there is no other; but to attain a sincere faith?

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

—*Romans 10:8*

The degree to which we're able to fulfill Christ's command to love as **HE** loves is the present indicator of our personal walk with Him; just as our problem with lust is in direct proportion to the object of our gaze: **HIS** desire versus **MY** desire.

Why is it, then, that so many of us feel that if we should call into question someone's actions, behavior, and/or life choices as a result of the spiritual quality of their heart, conscience, or walk, that we aren't being loving? Just as we need to work on these qualities in our own life, so we need to hold each other accountable for same. Our brother's

or sister's allowance of sin to live side-by-side in their heart with Truth, their development of dual standards of conscience to justify worldly rationale side-by-side with heavenly, their faithfulness being severely limited to a few hours a week in a very few things— **ALL** of these contribute to a weak faith that will never achieve God's desires if left unchecked. If **WE** "love" them with Christ's love, we will speak to it directly.

Isn't this what Jesus did in His earthly ministry? Even though people had emotional and physical needs, Christ also addressed the spiritual conditions of their heart, conscience, and walk. Some were allowing sin to reside in their heart, some allowing worldly standards to undermine biblical, some trying to serve more than one master. Jesus knew that **THESE** were the issues that had to be addressed in order to achieve the greater, eternal purposes of God's will in each and every life.

To achieve Christ's love in our life we must refocus on the condition and quality of our heart, mind, and walk; to encourage its proper development within the body of Christ at large, we must help others refocus on the same in their life. Anything less is not "love" at all.

In His Love,

Servant@LogosWalk.com