

CHRISTMAS – CELEBRATION OF LOVE

**JESUS WAS BORN
TO TELL US THAT GOD LOVES US,
THAT WE ARE IMPORTANT IN HIS EYES . . .
THAT EVERYTIME IS A GOOD TIME TO LOVE.
DO YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO LOVE?**

**LOVE without ulterior motives,
LOVE without being compensated,
LOVE without being loved back,
LOVE without being satisfied,
LOVE beyond reason,
LOVE in spite of everything.**



PROOF OF LOVE IS IN:

**LOVING although they don't like you,
LOVING although they hate you,
LOVING although they talk about you,
LOVING although they attack you.
LOVING although they make fun of you.**

**BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE NOT LEARNED
HOW TO SUFFER, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE
TO IMITATE JESUS IN:**

**LOVING the repulsive who bother us,
LOVING the bad characters who irritate us,
LOVING the sick who complain,
LOVING the crazies who annoy us,
LOVING the snobs who hurt us,
LOVING the proud who think they are better,
LOVING the uninvited who interrupt us,
LOVING the stranger who needs us,
LOVING the opportunists who take advantage,
LOVING the liars who manipulate us,
LOVING the hypocrites who deceive us,
LOVING the bothersome poor who follow us,
LOVING the drunks even with their tendencies,
LOVING the thieves who damage us,
LOVING the assassins who threaten us,
LOVING the vice filled with their defects,
LOVING the unfaithful traitors,
LOVING the impious with all their vices.**

The most convincing proof of LOVE
was given to us by JESUS,
since He sealed His IRRATIONAL LOVE with His death.
If Jesus had refused to suffer, He would have been judged by history as a big farce
who no one would have believed in.

It was He who taught us TRUE LOVE . . . that
bears everything,
forgives everything,
makes excuses for everything,
balances everything,
supports everything,
silences everything,
suffers everything,
forgets everything,

and never resents,
nor harbors anger,
isn't vengeful,
doesn't take advantage of,
doesn't cause pain.

It is impossible to fake CHARITY if it isn't born in the heart,
because if it is sincere, transparent, breathes through your pores,
even the blind can see it, because
TRUE LOVE:

bursts out in joy, because it is all good,
promotes harmony, since it doesn't have ulterior motives,
stands out because of its kindness,
and speaks frankly,
prefers humility and never is impatient,
tries to please but acts with simplicity;

flees from being a show off, and loves tranquility,
likes correctness and judges with prudence,
helps in pain and leans toward piety,
searches for the truth and goes forth with sincerity.

- “NAVIDAD, Fiesta de Amor” by *E. Menard, O.F.M.*
[Founder of the Society of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles, MSA]

Translated c. 2000
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