



St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church

11308 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1K9

"Love One Another" (1 John 4:7)

THE ROCK

THE LORD IS MY ROCK.

- PSALM 18:2

LOVE ONE
ANOTHER

1 JOHN 4:7



Reflection on (1 John 4:7-8):

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

By J.K.

One of the greatest gifts that God has given us, and one that many people spend their entire lives searching for, is the gift of love; to love and to be loved. It is human nature and a necessity of life to want to feel loved, cherished, and treasured by others. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,"** who shows us what it means to truly love others and why it is the cornerstone of the children of God (John 3:16). When we love others, we glorify God's name, we embody the values of a true Christian, and we lead by example. When we love others, we grow deeper in our own Father's love as we are following in His footsteps. When we love others, we *know* who God is for God *is* love. What does it mean to love others? In our society today, loving someone means loving them in the way that they *want* to be loved, not the way that they *need*. Many of us often have hidden standards and views in our minds of what it means for someone to truly love us. "They have to text me goodmorning and goodnight, they should make me nice meals, they need to sense when I am hurt without me telling them and then check on me. If they cannot do this, then they clearly don't love me." While these can be ways of showing one's love, they are not what it means to truly love someone and these expectations prevent us from experiencing God's abundant love for us and showing that love to others. We must learn to surrender our entire selves, worries, anxieties, and expectations to God as in doing so, we can feel His love which we *need* not the love we think we want.



When we feel this graceful, merciful, never-ending love of God, we hear His calling to love others as He has loved us. The love of our Lord will fill and overflow our hearts, if we let it, that we will want to share His love with the world. So, what does it mean to love others the way Jesus loved us first? In 1 Corinthians 13, we learn that, **"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."** This is the love of our Lord and the *true* love that does not depend on certain conditions or circumstances to be shown. However, we must not only do this to those who love us already as where is the challenge there? Rather it is the ones who persecute us, are not as loving, patient or kind to us that we must show the greatest love. We are called to love everyone, even those who we *feel* do not deserve our love, especially those who do not deserve our love for we did not deserve the sweet love of our Lord. When people hurt you, love them anyway. When people say unkind things to you, love them anyway. When people persecute you, love them anyway. When people take advantage of your love, love them anyway. LOVE THEM ANYWAY! For in the end, it is not about whether they deserve, it is about what you believe, and that is in glorifying God for He is love.



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