

Love: The Sequel

May 13, 2018

“By Love...most of us mean kindness—the desire to see others happy; not happy in this way or in that, but just happy. What would really satisfy us would be a God who said of anything we happened to like doing, ‘What does it matter so long as they are contented?’ We want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven—a senile benevolence who, as they say, ‘liked to see young people enjoying themselves,’ and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, ‘a good time was had by all’. Not many people, I admit, would formulate a theology in precisely those terms: but a conception not very different lurks at the back of many minds. But since it is abundantly clear that I don’t, and since I have reason to believe, nevertheless, that, God is Love, I conclude that my conception of love needs correction. I might, indeed, have learned, even from the poets, that Love is something more stern and splendid than mere kindness....”

— C.S. Lewis – from his book, *The Problem With Pain*

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

— C.S. Lewis – from his book, *The Four Loves*

Questions for consideration:

- Am I consciously asking God, every day, to deepen my experience of His love, and love for Him?
- Do I pray each day for God’s divine love to overflow through my life into the lives of others?
- Am I allowing God to bring specific people to mind that He is calling me to love in concrete ways?
- Do I follow through? Or do I substitute emotion for action instead?