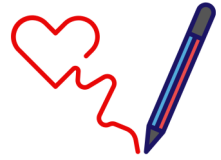


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



The Love Of Christ Compels Us

For the love of Christ controls (compels) us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died. (2 Corinthians 5:14)

A recent Pastors Conference has encouraged me and renewed my strength in pastoring the church. What had been explicitly spoken to me was a sharing based on 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Love is an invisible, powerful force that has enabled us to do things that surpass our understanding. The principal of SAMS, Mrs Wong, once shared with me a story about her friend who has two children with autism. During a Sunday service, her friend was praying and asking God why He had allowed all these things to happen to her. At the end of the church service, God told her the reason: He knows that she has the love capacity that is big enough to love her children no matter what happens to them. She cried and thanked God for filling up her love tank whenever she needed it.

Indeed! Love is more than what words can express. Love expresses itself in actions and, in many situations, through sacrificial love. We had just crossed the Holy Week. Good Friday is good because ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*** God's love was expressed in sacrificing his only son, Jesus Christ, for our sins.

Likewise, Paul said, ***"Christ's love controls (compels) us."*** In other words, the love of Christ is not just a good feeling. It has the power to transform us into a new person. Perhaps you were once a person who gets angry with almost anything, but after knowing Jesus, his love compels you to manage your anger. Or perhaps you think you will never forgive someone who hurts you so much, but the love of God compels you to forgive.

We can serve Jesus in many ways, but if it is not the love of Christ that compels us, it will not be sustainable. By this, I meant the second greatest commandment: to love your neighbours. It is easy to love God, but to couple it with loving your neighbours is the real test of loving Him. Unless the love of Christ compels us, many will give up loving our neighbours. If you truly love Jesus, your love will be sacrificial. You no longer live on your terms but on God's terms. To be compelled by the love of God takes a genuine relationship with Jesus. Being lukewarm will only leave you sitting on the fence, and your desires will compel you, not God.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the love for God comes before any act of worship. If it is not out of your genuine love for Christ, it will not compel you to obey and to do His Will.

Pastor Kelvin