



IDENTITY

DISCIPLES

IDENTITY - DISCIPLES PART 8

John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

This verse is broken into 2 parts and yet they align themselves perfectly as one life giving reality.

Q. How will men know we are Jesus' disciples?

The answer: IF we have 'agape', God's love for one another.

The word 'IF' stands out big time. "If" is a very small two letter word with so much punch and power behind it. The word is placed in the verse in such a way to make you stop and ask a question. This is not an automatic reality. Knowing we are His disciples is conditional and conditional on the basis of loving one another with His love. This is the standard to which Jesus holds His disciples.

In a court of law, a person is convicted by the evidence that is presented in the court case. It is no different here. Truth is self-evident. As much as we like to create this third position or what I call a "luke warm" position, where we appease our flesh and believe we are in something we are not, while telling ourselves we are, the EVIDENCE of our lives speaks the truth.

There is no shame in this reality, whether we are able to, yet, or not, but we must be honest and be prepared to look at what the evidence says. This is 'agape' which we are to love one another with;

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Q. Is this the love we have for one another?

Q. To what measure have we received this love within us?

Q. How often do you find this love flowing from you to others?

Q. How often would you say you receive this love from others?

Q. How does one receive this love within them?

For the answer to the fifth question, marinate yourselves in Ephesians 3:14-19 and ask the Spirit to reveal this dimension in you.