

FOUR ASPECTS OF LOVE

By Keith Greer

Let's briefly examine **four aspects** of God's love:

The Son's love for the Father. "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." (John 17:4) Christ demonstrated His love for the Father by doing His will on earth. Christ always gave the Father credit for all He did and accomplished while on earth.

The Father's love for the Son. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." (John 15:9) Christ never doubted the love His Father had for Him. That love sustained Him as he endured the trials He experienced during completion of His work here on earth. On two occasions {Matthew 3:15-17; 17:1-5}, the Father voiced His approval of the Son's actions while He was in the flesh. When He prayed to His Father for strength facing the cross – He heard Him. "

The Son's love for the saints. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." {1 John 15:10-12} All that Christ did on earth demonstrated His love for the saints. This love continues and will until time on earth is no more; then it will go on throughout eternity.

The Saints' love for one another. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this, all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34,35) John wrote much about this special love that must exist between brethren. "We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." {1 John 4:19-21} God's people share a special type of relationship that we must express by our love for one another. Loving the brethren can give us strength and comfort as we deal with life's difficulties. Love surrounds God's children. Love is the characteristic that must be found in everything one does in our service unto the Lord. Love must be the motive or our work will be rejected!
