



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD ...

Without love nothing would exist. Think about that! On every level everything that we can experience is an act of love. Without love this world would be void and desolate. Without love the constellations and galaxies would have no order. Without love we would be in darkness waiting for the light to come. But the light has come, and the world exists in the atmosphere of love.

I have always thought that love is action. Without action, the love we possess is not fulfilled. This is shown throughout the manifested world. Without the activity of love life in the conceptual world withers and dies. With love even the most broken-down expression of life is restored to perfection. The way the activity of love restores and fulfills is through the individual aware of his or her inner spiritual sense. Love is universal and impersonal; that means that for love to be transformative it must flow through the person without judgment or condition. To bask in the joy of unconditioned love we must be the transparency through which that love flows.

Jesus asked Peter if Peter loved him. Peter did not know how to answer that question. From the human perspective we put all kinds of conditions on love. Do I like that person? Can I be vulnerable in the presence of that person? Will that person love me back? So, Peter hesitated. What did the Master mean? In Greek, the universal language at that time, there were three words for love: eros, meaning erotic love, philia, meaning brotherly love, and agape, meaning transcendent love. Jesus used the word agape. We can only speculate as to why Peter didn't answer immediately with the same word. Perhaps he felt he was unworthy to unite with the Master on that level of oneness. Jesus asked a second time, using agape, and Peter answered that of course he loved him, but Peter used the word philia. Finally, Jesus realized that Peter could not take that transcendent step to love unconditionally, and he acknowledged Peter as his brother.

Later Jesus told his followers to "Love one another as I have loved you." If you follow that command, it will transform your life. It will take you out of the personal and reveal the universal nature of your being. It will motivate you to be an active lover, for it is through the giving of love that you experience the joy of life. And it will fulfill you on every level of your life. The love you give will not be fractured; it will be whole. Like the three aspects of the trinity, eros, philia and agape It will be one in expression. And you will realize that what God gave the world, in His infinite wisdom, is you. You are the Christ, the manifestation of God as individual being, and as such, the embodiment of love in the world.