



இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவாம்

N E W S L E T T E R

**LOVE** I give you a new commandment: Love one another, as I have loved you. Jn 13:34

- Agnes P. Raj

Christian love is a gift from the Father given to us through Jesus Christ. Jesus gives this gift as 'new commandment': to love one another as He loves us. This love for one another is the sign of the presence of God among us through Holy Spirit. Catholic church is built on this love. Love will come from God and will take us to God. God loved us so much that he gave his only son to save us from sin. Jesus lived his life showing God's love.

The early Christians lived the same love that Jesus taught them. We read in the book of Acts 2:44-47 and 4:32-35, that they were together, they forgave one another, they loved one another, they were one heart and one soul, they shared their food and belongings with the needy. They lived a new life and practiced the new commandment that Jesus gave them during the last supper. The early Christians were able to love one another because they felt the love of God in them. The true love of God. The love that Paul talks about in his first letter to Corinthians (13:4-8). Love is patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud and is forgiving. In revelation 21:1-5 we read about the new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem. How can this be

possible? It is through this new commandment. Love one another as I have loved you. When we put this commandment into action we can also make a new home, new city and new world.

'Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth' (1Jn3:18). Loving is more than just saying "I Love you", or having a happy feeling inside us. Love is showing, that you really mean the words you say. It should be in action, so that this action can become a chain reaction.

Love should begin from us. We need not wait for the love to erupt in our lives. We should not wait for the change to happen around us, we should change. We should model the love of God in our own love. When we tend to our own children, parent, spouse and neighbors when they are sick, listen to them when they are troubled, share the joy and nurture their bodies and soul, we are giving them love. This will help them to see the sign of love around them. Our life will be meaningful only when we love others. With love we can bring change in us, in our family, even in the world. Let us build the new world with love.

**Marriage as a Sacrament**

- Shanthi Raja

and to their children. Marriage is a natural institution, something common to all mankind. Marriage is a union between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation and mutual support and love. Each spouse in a marriage gives up some rights over his or her life in exchange for rights over the life of the other spouse. The sacrament of marriage is a covenant by which a man and a woman establish a lifetime partnership in the presence of God.

Marriage is a blessed sacrament instituted by God. God made a man and a woman and showered with all his love. When a man and a woman unite together in the Sacrament of Marriage, they share the love that God showered on them with each other. The children they raise in this world are true witness to their love to each other

In the Catholic Church, however, marriage is more than a natural institution; it was elevated by Christ Himself, in His participation in the wedding at Cana (John 2: 2-11), to be one of the seven sacraments. A marriage between two Christians, therefore, has a supernatural element as well as a natural one. Catholic Church insists that marriage between any two baptized Christians, as long as it is entered into with the intention to contract a true marriage, is a sacrament. The effect of the sacrament is an increase in sanctifying grace for the spouses, a participation in the divine life of God Himself. This sanctifying grace helps each spouse to help the other advance in holiness, and it helps them to cooperate together in God's plan of redemption by raising their children in the Faith. In this way, sacramental marriage is more than a union of a man and a woman; it is, in fact, a type and symbol of the divine union between Christ, the Bridegroom, and His Church, the Bride. As married Christians, open to the creation of new life and committed to our mutual salvation, we participate not only in God's creative act but in the redemptive act of Christ.

Having been married for the past twenty-five years with a loving and caring husband and beautiful, loving children, I can share a few words from my experience. When I got into this holy sacrament with my husband, least did I know that I have to compromise on many different things and learn to adjust with all the many situations that come along the way of a young couple. We moved from India to the United States when we had completed two years of marriage. While on the one hand, new place, new life gave us a lot of encouragement, on the hand we had to face everything by ourselves without the support of the elders. We missed family and friends left back home and learned to make our marriage fruitful in this new world. God was present with his guiding light in every little step we took paving the way. Our life together has taught us how to give and take when to give and when to take and stand as pillars of support for each other and our children.

Let us all pray to God to bless our commitment and the sacrament we received through marriage. Let us cherish our oneness with God through our spouses and our children. We will experience the love of God when we stay committed to our matrimonial vows and enjoy the presence of God's love in our everyday life.



PRIDE AND HUMILITY

- Leenus RichL

நட்பு

நட்பு என்பது
நண்பர்கள் நடுவே
நிற்கும்
போக்குவரத்துப் பாலம் அல்ல...



எந்த காலத்திலும்
எந்த நேரத்திலும்

எனக்கு நீ இருக்கிறாய்
உனக்கு நான் இருக்கிறேன்

என்பதை உறுதிப்படுத்தும்
நம்பிக்கைப் பாலம்.

நண்பன்

பிறருக்காக நீ
மெழுகாக உருக வேண்டாம்
திரியாக கருக வேண்டாம்
மலராக மணக்கவும் வேண்டாம்

பிறர் மனதை புண்படுத்தாமல்
வாழ்ந்து விட்டால் போதும்
இந்த மண்ணிலக மாந்தர்க்கு
மட்டுமல்ல
அந்த விண்ணிலக
தேவர்களுக்கும்
நீயே நண்பன்!...

We've all heard the saying that pride goes before the fall. What is it about pride that is so attractive? What is it about pride that trips us up?

Pride is a concealed superiority. It is a part of our mind that tells us we are better than, greater than, more important than, more deserving than or more qualified than anyone else. Another face of pride is self-righteousness. Jesus also mentioned about pride and humble through the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector to the people who were convinced of their own righteousness, and who despised all others.

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood and prayed to himself like this:

'God, I thank you, that I am not like the rest of men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far away, wouldn't even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying,

'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14)

If we say "I am super experienced, intelligent, talented and super spiritual" as the Pharisee said then God will say to us "Sorry son you will be humbled". Instead if we say "I am a sinner" as the tax collector did then God will say to us "Good job son you will be exalted" and He will help us to come out of our sins.

There are some good info I read recently about pride and humble. I am giving some of them here.

- Proud people focus on the failures of others. Humble people are overwhelmed with a

sense of their own spiritual need.

- Proud people have a critical, fault-finding spirit; they look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope. Humble people are compassionate; they forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.
- Proud people are self-righteous; they look down on others. Humble people esteem all others better than themselves.
- Proud people have to prove that they are right. Humble people are willing to yield the right to be right.
- Proud people are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation. Humble people are self-denying.
- Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated. Humble people have a sense of their own unworthiness; they are thrilled that God would use them at all.
- Proud people are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked. Humble people are eager for others to get the credit; they rejoice when others are lifted up.
- Proud people are quick to blame others. Humble people accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation.
- Proud people desire to be served. Humble people are motivated to serve others.
- Proud people desire to be a success. Humble people are motivated to be faithful and to make others a success.
- Proud people are unapproachable or defensive when criticized. Humble people receive criticism with a humble, open spirit.



Days to Remember

Feb 22: Ash
Wednesday. Please
attend mass in your
parish.

Mar 17: Lenten
Retreat. Details will
be sent out soon.

To contribute to the
newsletter please mail

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