Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 18 "I need others in my life."

Have you ever had a head cold? You have breathed air in which someone deposited their germs, and now your nose is running, your throat is soar and your lungs are congested. Does your head get angry and break off relations with your lungs? Probably not, because your head ***needs*** your lungs, even if they are sick. The body of Christ is no different – sometimes people make us sick, but we still need them. Why? The answer may surprise you: we need other people because we NEED to love them.

> *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."* (John 15:9-13 [NIV])

This passage is VERY clear. The Lord Jesus Christ has issued a command, and our response leads toward either a blessing or a curse. Jesus says IF you obey His commands you will remain in His love, implying that if you do not obey you do NOT remain in His love, which is bad – VERY bad. The blessing is nothing short of astounding – if we obey, His joy will be in us and our joy will be ***complete***. Most people have experienced overwhelming joy once or twice, perhaps when they got married or at the birth of a child. Jesus says something that is almost unbelievable – our whole life can be like that!

- If Jesus Christ is your Lord, He has the right to issue you commands.
- His command is to love each other as He loved us.
- Our response to His command places us under either a curse too horrible to bear thinking of or a blessing too wonderful to imagine.

Spend some time trying to imagine FULLNESS of joy. Imagine a day in which you wake up FULL of joy, go through your day FULL of joy, eat your meals FULL of joy, and lie down at night FULL of joy – your heart brimming over with gratitude and love for a God who has done such a wonderful work in your life. If your heart is full of God's love it is full of God, and you will dwell in His presence. Remember: *"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."* (Ps 16:11 [NIV]) Is there a better day to start this life than today?