



# *THE PASTOR'S PEN*

## *(Disciples of Christ)*

### *The First Word*



August 28th, 2017

### *Chair Chat "Love One Another"*

*(Used in Place of the Pastor's Pen)*

In the recent months it appears our world is escalating its hateful Ways...families killing each other, nations in turmoil, extremist Running down people...

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

In reflection if no one has ever seen God, how can we ever know him? John in his Gospel said, *"No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us."* (John 1:18). Jesus is the complete expression of God in human form, and he has revealed God to us. When we love one another, the invisible God reveals himself to others through us, and his love is made complete.

God is the source of our love. He loved us enough to sacrifice his Son for us. Jesus is our example of what it means to love; everything he did in life and death was supremely loving. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to love; he lives in our heart and makes us more and more like Christ.

John isn't telling us how many people to love, but how much to love the people we already know. Our job is to love faithfully the people God has given us to love, whether there are two or two hundred of them.

If God sees that we are ready to love others, he will bring them to us. No matter how shy we are, we don't need to be afraid of the love commandment. God's love always involves a choice and an action, and our love should be like his. How well do you display your love for God in the choices you make and the actions you take? God provides us the strength to do what he asks. In what creative way will you show God's love to someone?

In summary...remember God is in control...the human race has its ebbs and flows...  
God is always the same.