

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- August 14, 2014

"Love: There Is Nothing Greater"

Recently in an evangelistic news magazine, an interview with a German pastor, Reinhard Homer, was published. Together with his wife and father, they had taken into their home, the former Head of State of the Communist Party, Erich Honecker and his wife Margot of East Germany. However, Homer's action and act of kindness were ridiculed and criticized by fellow Christians. The reason given was an obvious one. Many Christians had suffered under Honecker's iron-fist regime. They were beaten. Tortured. Jailed. Murdered. So let him "reap what he sowed" was the general attitude.

The Homers were approached by one of the elders of his church and was told in no uncertain term that mercy and compassion should be shown to everyone except Erich Honecker.

On a human level one could understand this elder's position. But on a "God Level", the mercy and loving kindness of God were misunderstood. Jesus said: "Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you." The Bible says: "God has demonstrated His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). In fact, on the cross, Jesus forgave His torturers. But the conclusion of that statement about forgiving those who crucified Him has always baffled me. He said: "...for they know not what they do." In my thinking, they knew exactly what they were doing. Still, Jesus forgave them unconditionally.

There are some lessons for us in all of this:

- God loves all people. He hates their evil deeds but He loves them, nevertheless.
- God's love does not discriminate. He doesn't love one more than the other. Everything and everyone are part of His handiwork and He loves them all.
- Jesus reminds us to treat everyone alike and forgive those who have hurt us. It is true that as human beings, it is difficult to forget, but God will give grace to exercise the power of forgiveness.
- God does not impute our sins to us; rather, He forgives them through the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. God is loving, merciful and kind.
- Most churches that split up, oftentimes, it is not on account of different theological views, but because of the lack of love.
- Christians should agree to disagree. They could be divided but not divisive. There could be unity in diversity.

Remember God loves you, He really does!

Have a blessed week! See you in church Sunday!
Pastor Sewdin