

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Put ye on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, the bowels of mercy, benignity, humility, modesty, patience: Bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if any have a complaint against another. Even as the Lord hath forgiven you, so do you also. But above all these things have charity, which is the bond of perfection.

What is True Charity or True Love?

Aristotle says "Love is to wish good to someone"

Also St. Thomas says with **love** there is a twofold tendency

1. To the **GOOD** which a person wishes to another.
2. To that person to whom the good is directed.

1. Man has a love of Desire for the GOOD

2. And a love of Friendship to the person as a reflection of God.

The latter love of friendship has more the aspect of true love or Charity than the former.

Yet in English it is difficult to distinguish In Latin one is Amor the other Dilectio.

St. Thomas Distinguishes three kinds of love

Amor is a love which pertains to the appetite either natural sensitive or intellectual *in common with the beasts.*

Dilectio adds to Amor the aspect of choice, not found in the lower appetites, but must be in a rational being.

Caritas this adds the both a perfection of love, the object of love being esteemed as something of great value.

Thus may the words of St. Paul be to you all,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that you be of one mind, having the same charity, being of one accord, agreeing in sentiment.

3 Let nothing be done through contention: neither by vain glory. But in humility, let each esteem others better than themselves:

a) Here is the true spirit of Christianity

b) It is also opposed to the spirit of envy, and the spirit of vain curiosity and pride thinking that we know what is best.

True love produces

- peace and concord, a willingness to act and suffer for others

It is shown by

- Sincere congratulation upon success, sympathy in trials and sorrows
- Repression of all ill-felling, a desire not to give offence nor taking offence in others.

This is exemplified by

- Our Lady and her visit to Elizabeth
- St John in his Epistles

In this is charity: not as though we had loved God, but because he hath first loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins. My dearest, if God hath so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abideth in us: and his charity is perfected in us. And we have known and have believed the charity which God hath to us. God is charity: and he that abideth in charity abideth in God, and God in him.

Let us shake off all selfish love, and discord and put on the true love, put on the true man, the man who stands up for those he loves, for his Faith and For the Kingdom Of Christ the King, and let the peace of Christ rejoice in your hearts, and all whatsoever you do in word or in work, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.