

Easter 6: Love One Another

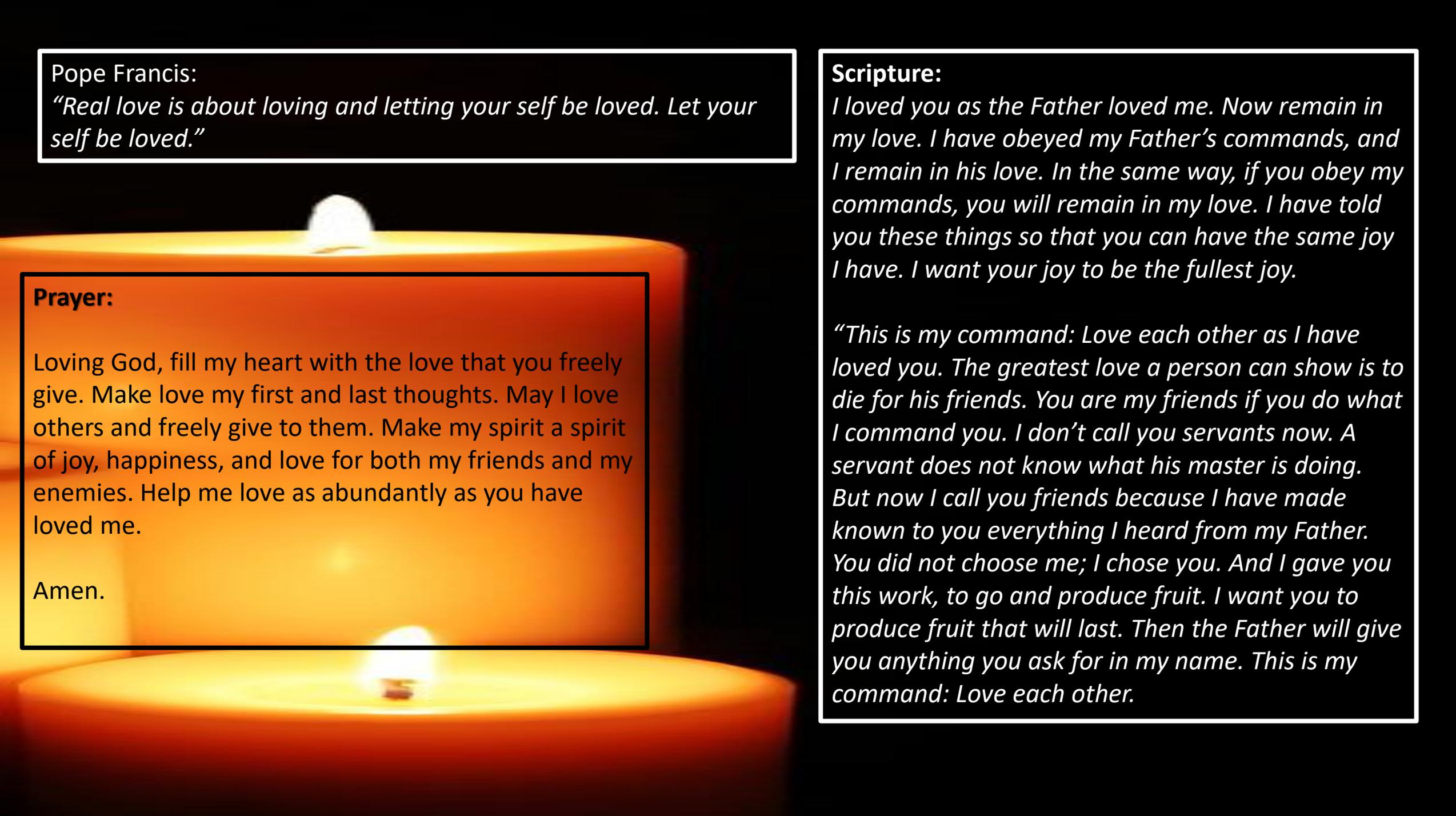
Many years ago, as I was being journeying to the church to get married that day, there was an interview on Radio 5 Live. A young journalist was asking a man who had been married for 70+ years what was the secret of a long and happy marriage was. The journalist asked him, 'Is it all about give and take?' The elderly gentleman corrected him and told him, 'It's all about give and give.'

Strangely enough, the wife wasn't asked this question. I wonder what her response might have been!

However, this message from the elderly gentleman surely does not only apply to marriage ... it applies to all of life. Jesus' instruction to us to 'love one another' doesn't come with any conditions. It is not about give and take. We are asked to have a genuine love for others ... all others. It is not enough to be just be nice or civil to some people (and Christ knows this can be hard enough some days!). It has to be love. That's the high standard set for us all.

[Mr Doust]





Pope Francis:

“Real love is about loving and letting your self be loved. Let your self be loved.”

Prayer:

Loving God, fill my heart with the love that you freely give. Make love my first and last thoughts. May I love others and freely give to them. Make my spirit a spirit of joy, happiness, and love for both my friends and my enemies. Help me love as abundantly as you have loved me.

Amen.

Scripture:

I loved you as the Father loved me. Now remain in my love. I have obeyed my Father’s commands, and I remain in his love. In the same way, if you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. I have told you these things so that you can have the same joy I have. I want your joy to be the fullest joy.

“This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don’t call you servants now. A servant does not know what his master is doing. But now I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work, to go and produce fruit. I want you to produce fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. This is my command: Love each other.