



## Midweek Meditation



*"God is love." 1 John 4:8*

*Reason cannot break itself of this habit: if it finds itself favored by God before others, it must turn up its nose at those who do not enjoy such favor...But love reverses this order and treats the sins and failings of its neighbor as if they were its own. It helps to save him and does not at once look down on them with proud contempt. Martin Luther*

When Hagar saw that she had conceived, and that Sarah remained barren, "she looked with contempt at her mistress" (Genesis 16:4). This pride led to her being cast out of Abraham's house, along with her son, Ishmael. Those, today, who harbor pride within their hearts, are likewise cast out of the family of God, for a proud heart has no room for Christ. Rather, love rules within God's family, for God is love. Jesus did not turn up His nose at His neighbors but made the sins of all to be His own. He who was treated with contempt responded to such scorn with pure love. It is Jesus, not pride, who dwells in the hearts of His beloved children. When pride desires to enter in, we can tell it to stay away because Christ already lives there.

*Almighty God, You resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant and prideful, but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace. Amen.*