

## Pruning of branches

Our love is not to be just words or mere talk.

There is in the area of care, and the understanding of love, a natural inclination to present an image of comfort.

The CHRISTMAS image  
of a content mother caring father and adoring crowd around the Bethlehem scene.

Easter now  
has been infested by egg laying bunny rabbits.

But love if it is to be a reality in this fallen world it cannot simply be a source of contentment,  
it will also inevitably be a source of challenge.

If love is to be real and active,  
in the complexity of economics, medical care, legal justice, and even day to day family existence.  
Then love will demand that we cut. Or even more difficult that we make decisions without certainty,  
in an attempt to do our best.

If it is to be not just words or mere talk then areas of our existence will need to be cut away, and  
allowed to wither.

Dependent upon the upon the ambiguity of faith

There is at the present time a race taking place within the middle class families of our society to  
exhaust their children with activity.

For all the best reasons there is a hope that the little ones will enjoy and develop their personal  
co-ordination with the dance class.(Monday) That social skills will be enhanced by regular  
attendance at cubs (Tuesday. Wednesday is guitar lessons. Thursday the judo or some other form of  
martial art. Friday soccer or some other sport. And then the weekend the competitions or  
certification and grading of these activities.

When will the children play, rest, sleep.

If our children are to be more than simply trophies of family accomplishment then we are the ones  
who must cut.

If our love is not to be, merely words or just talk

We are the ones who must say no. Must disappoint. Without certainty.

After this awful COVID crisis is over there will inevitably be a drastic downturn in the economy.  
Business is not renowned for its Christian attitude to employees.

Profit is often presented as the false God followed by the high priests of industry.  
However I have lived in areas where there is little business. Where there is little activity in the local  
economy and witnessed the consequent suffering.

If there is no profit then the business will not survive. Then the supply of money for wages will dry  
up, and all will suffer.

If our love is not to be, merely words or just talk.

Then those with commercial responsibility must be prepared to make unpopular decisions.

We may wonder how can it be Christian to serve a wage earner with a redundancy notice.

Without certainty to take options in an attempt to keeping production alive.

Even at the most insular level of personal life.

Cuts need to be made.

If your love for self is not to be words or mere talk

Then guided by faith

Relationships will need to be limited or even broken.

Ambitions will need to be prioritised, or even dropped

Honest and painful truth will need to guide diet, exercise, sleep and drink.

As people of faith it is not enough to accept the consequences of fate.

We are the ones obliged to make decisions

With faith and not certainty.

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Or even more difficult that we make decisions, in an attempt to do our best.

However always remember

It is accomplished

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