

These short verses of St. Paul, addressed to the community of Galatia, enclose in a very intense and suggestive way the depth of the relationship that surely he has lived with the Lord, but also teach us **what is the essence of our faith**.

As we have said many times, **the Christian faith is to believe in Jesus, believe in his person, in his love for us, especially in the fact that He died for love of us**.

Enlightened and supported by this love the believer, therefore, wishes to welcome it and reciprocate it, actually **build a loving relationship**.

If we do not put at the centre of our faith the love of Jesus first of all, for the Holy Trinity, and then of course also for all men, we transform our faith into an adherence to moral standards or into intellectual perspectives.

I say this because, **though moral and theological perspectives may be beautiful, noble and heroic** – we also need those obviously – **these, however, fail to make us live a loving relationship with God**.

That is why sometimes the Lord in the Gospel says: *I came to call sinners* (cf. Mar 2,17 and Mat 9,13); ... *Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much* (cf. Luke 7,47); because **Jesus wants our person, our life and our faith to be a source of love**.

Of course, I do not know if any of us will be able to say with St. Paul: *it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me*.

But, at least, we can live thinking about this love.

Then, in a very simple and concrete way, I would ask each of you to raise a daily prayer of gratitude and love for Jesus and for all the disciples of Jesus, and I ask you to elevate it even for me, for also I am trying to be a disciple of the Lord.

For my part, I will address every day a thought of love and affection to each person who reads my reflection, so that our joint listening to the word of God is not just something intellectual, but it can also become deeply ecclesial.

That this listening be a community listening, cemented by the supernatural affection of God and built on the shared love for Him and for the Church.

Praised be Jesus Christ