LOVE BEGINS WITH ME

Love which simply means a strong feeling of deep affection for someone has been defined variedly from different angles and perspectives. That not withstanding, looking at love, that immediately comes to the limelight is the unconditional love. Unconditional love is love that knows no bounds and when shown to someone, one expects nothing in return.

Looking at it from this perspective, I stand the comfortable and unshakeable of championing and professing this God-given virtue-love. Love has actually got to begin with me. This is because if I don't love myself, I won't be capable of loving others. As the saying goes, charity begins at home. Unconditional love ranges from immediate family members, neighbors, country and the world at large. I have to serve as a glaring epitome of love to my immediate family member, neighbors and country. For me to love someone, entails vowing to be sharing in that person's problems in sickness and in health. I have got to provide solace to he or she whenever in depress, partake in his or her sadness and rejoice in his or her pleasure. My loving appetite for any one should never cease even when he/she neglects me, insults me and even condemns me. "Out of sight is not out of mind and true love describes feeling and not situation.

Conscious of these facts, getting the ideal love one is always an uphill task taking cognizance of the fact that human beings behave funny at times. In this respect, the best person to compromise the above situation is the person with whom my soul can be left bear without fear of destruction. He/she has got to be capable of making me better off when I am down. He/she has to understand and bear all those contradictions about my character that make people to think negatively about my personality.

To prepare a good dish pregnant with love, we need the following recipe:

- 1. Take a pound of thought and mix it with care, compassion and tenderness.
- 2. Allow it to simmer for a while.
- 3. Then add consideration and consolation.
- 4. Before it boils from the top, remove anger and vexation.
- 5. Now add a pinch of sympathy and endurance.
- 6. Spice it up with some smiles and place in a loving heart to obtain a desired flavor.
- 7. Wait till it sets.
- 8. Serve with seeds of gentleness, kindness, generosity and charity.
- 9. Savor the dish of human love, happiness and humanity.

With the almighty God reigning with us, all my faithful efforts and endeavors toward epitomizing love will all culminate in an effervescent. Love, we notice it when we feel it but we can go on and on for years trying to put into words seemingly to not avail. Love which is a marriage between two souls should be far better if it begins with me.

Angyikum Emmanuel Aghangu Bamenda, Cameroon