

LOVE

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Love is a manifest desire from the heart to serve God and help mankind. Jesus founded His empire on love. Love should be manifested from the heart instead of from the lips only. God will help us to show forth love to others if it comes from the heart; also following the law of love would help us quickly out of this depression, which came upon us because mankind showed greed and hate toward their brothers instead of showing love.

People today like the Pharisees have a greed for money, for clothes and other worldly possessions. They believe in the Pharisaical way of serving God, which is lip service and not in love, at least not in the right kind of love. Read in Matt. 12:15-22 where they took counsel that they might entangle Christ by their questions, which were not asked in love and in Matt. 22:23-36 of the Saducees; and also of the lawyer in Matt. 22:35-40, and you will get Jesus' idea of the service of love. If you wish to keep yourself in the presence of God follow the admonition: "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."

We all have noticed how easy it is for Satan's army to band together. Love should bind the Christian army close together that they could win the victory over the hosts of Satan. Today the people in the ranks of the Christian army are too far apart. We need the strength that comes from being banded close together, remembering that we are out to gain sinners as recruits to our ranks.

The angel's song was: "Peace on earth, good will toward men." Good will is a manifestation of love. There can be no good-will without it. What sweet peace fills the soul when we truly love the brethren. God says to love our brother is the real test of whether we are His children.

If we love God from the heart we will do our duty the best we can in every way that we can to all that we can. Love makes us satisfied in whatever state we may be in, knowing that if we are troubled or sorrowing that it is God chastening us to see if we follow Him in truth. We should all be like Job. We have suffered affliction as he did, but some have borne it very well, but like he did, for if we did our best we were very far from being as patient as he was. Let us beg God to help us to be more patient to stand our trials and He will, if we believe and not doubt Him. Afflictions make us ask for more wisdom and more faith and a better understanding of how to love and serve Him. He will answer our prayers, but we must step out as He bids. When we are truly converted and filled with holiness, we will pray every day and even in the dead of night. When we awake each morning we should ask Him to lead us through the day, thanking Him for the past and trusting Him to keep us sweet and pure. We should ask Him to help us cheer some poor fainting brother and be on friendly terms with our neighbors; above all we should pray for our enemies, even so far as wishing them joy and happiness. Do so and they will come to you and beg forgiveness and tell you of their sorrow that they have mistreated you. This is the way of dealing with enemies. It is the love way.

The angels song was "Peace on earth, good will toward men." What sweet peace fills the soul when we truly love our brothers

and are at peace with all men. God says that such love is really the test of whether we are His children.

My readers will please pardon a bit of personal experience. I tell it here because it illustrates the great truth that if we help our brother we are blessed and protected. You know Jesus said: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends if ye do whatever I command you."

It was in the time of the great flu epidemic in 1918-19. I was taken very sick and had to go to bed. Many were dying. Even nurses and doctors were ill and could not attend to the needs of the sick. My daughter-in-law and her two-year-old daughter took the disease and went to bed. I got out of my bed and said to my daughter-in-law, "You are a grown woman to be sure. I have no husband. You have your husband and daughter to live for, and you, I fear, do not trust God as I do, because I am not afraid to die. I have made peace with my God and have no fears of death as so many Christians say they do. So I will take care of both of you, and if anybody dies, let me die." "Oh," she said, as I have heard many say, "You haven't been over there and don't know what is really there. Don't take such a risk." I said, "I have too much faith in God to doubt the hereafter," so I sent her to be with her child and took care of both of them and we are all alive today. My testimony is that though I have failed at times, it has never been intentionally. I have never wallowed in sin. I love the Word of God and never expect to deny my Lord. I am resolved to press on and make an honor grade. I have had trials and troubles and some awful, awful sad hours, but when such hours come, I turn to God and tell Him all about it. "Lord," I say, "Haven't I tried each day as I was taught by Christian parents to love and serve Thee; to pray when all was well, and pray when it wasn't? What have I done that my burdens seem more than I can bear? I yield to you and not to Satan." He lifts me up then, praise His name! Now, seeing He won't leave me, nor forsake me, I don't think of trouble. That's what I call working out your soul's salvation. Just so in this depression, we must all be patient, help ourselves all we can honestly, then trust Him to do for us and He will help. We must share, as did the widow with Elijah, when she divided her last small store with the prophet. Then the Lord increased her store so that it failed not. I love to help others. So far God has not let my store fail. We must let the world know our love in action. We must feel each other's woe. As the Lord helps you, you feel a little stronger and a better understanding of His ways and so are better able to direct others to God.

We must not forget that we are a part of that third and fourth generation on whom God said a curse would come. It is ours now to help the next third and fourth generation to escape such punishment as we are having now. Let us be honest and truthful toward all men, and do unto others as we would have them do to us. Let us drop greed and the love of money, which is the root of all evil, let us love righteousness, and God will prosper us. Some today are bearing the awful punishment of their sins; some are looking down on their sins in horror. They should "about face." This generation needs a Moses, or a Joshua to lead us out. He will raise up

one if we trust Him. We must pray but we must say when we pray, "Thy will be done." When we so pray, we prove to God that we love Him.

There are many kinds of love: the love of self, which is wrong. The love of evil, which brings punishment, the love of mankind and the love which we should have for God which is the highest love and brings satisfaction and peace such as the world cannot give. Let us pray, "Fill our hearts with Thy love, oh God, and let it spread from our hearts till all the world shall know Thy love."—Missionary H. Herald and The Vanguard.

THE IDEAL PASTOR

The ideal pastor studies his people and strives to bring out the best there is in them. He is meek and teachable. He has proper dignity, does not engage in light, trifling conversation, even with the young folk, but makes them feel free to express their feelings to him; for in no other way can he know his people and advise and encourage them. He must not be critical or they will not be free; and freedom is the keynote of prayer and testimony.

The ideal pastor is faithful with his people and he has the courage to reprove in the spirit of the Master; but this reproof is given privately after hearing the other side of the question. And he allows his people to tell him of any fault or mistake and to have the same privilege of self-defense, preventing in a large measure misunderstandings and hard feelings.

The ideal pastor does not imagine that no one has heard the doctrine which he preaches nor has gone through the same experiences through which he has gone. He is not satisfied with a lack of progress spiritually in his people; for where progress stops, death begins. A good poultry man or farmer or horticulturist is an observing man and soon detects disease or failure of growth, while a preacher sometimes blusters on, not noticing his mistakes until his flock is dead.

The successful pastor puts every one to work. In the spiritual world, as well as in nature, inactivity causes decay. He gives each one a chance and encourages them to lead the prayer, or young people's meeting or love-feast, which stimulates individuality and gives his people experience and training for work in later years, as the Pentecost Band work did in the early days of Free Methodism.

The ideal pastor does not do all the talking. He knows that if he superintends the Sabbath-school, preaches, and leads the prayer-meeting, no matter how eloquent he may be, his congregation and even his own family will tire of him. Variety is the spice of life in spiritual things as well as in anything else. It was different in the days when the presiding elder came once in three months. Those were some of the brightest spots in the life of the writer. Pastors should exchange pulpits, as it is suggested that they do; but they seldom do.

The ideal pastor is not an extremist and does not stress one doctrine at the expense of another; he gives heed to I. Timothy 4:16. He is a man of prayer and filled and controlled with the Holy Ghost so that he does not preach his won ideas or opinions. Knowing that the scriptures are of no private interpretation, he will rightly divide the word of truth.—The Free Methodist.