

## Love One Another

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another".

(John 13:35).

Nature says, love thyself; but Christ says, "Love one another." Love is so essential a part of religion that there is no possibility of being a Christian without it.

"By this"—the livery which all Christ's servants wear, and which distinguishes them from the men of the world—"shall all men know that ye are my disciples." By this plain but honorable badge, any one may know for himself, whether he is a disciple of Christ; for this is the Christian's low-water mark. "By this," when clouds and darkness are around him, and when every other mark appears to have been removed, he knows that he is passed from death unto life.

But this knowledge is not confined to themselves, nor to a few of their intimate friends; for the Saviour declares, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples." They shall not conjecture, or guess, or think, that you look like Christians; their doubts will be removed, and they shall know of a truth that ye are His disciples, "if ye have love one to another."

It is worthy of remark that our Lord does not say: If ye possess love—make a show of love—or talk about love—but if ye HAVE love one to another! Where real love is absent, true faith is never present.

Those who are destitute of love are ignorant of its true value. Love enables us to be patient under trouble; slow to anger; to forgive injuries; to be kind to our enemies; to deny ourselves; to do good to our neighbors; to mourn over the faults and actions of others; to kindly bear with the infirmities of all; and love makes the present life like a little heaven among ourselves, while it strongly recommends us to the esteem of others.

All who are the "children of God by faith," maintaining the same common principles, influenced by the same motives, sharing in the same enjoyments, are the subjects of a mutual and tender affection for each other, which expresses itself by every possible act of kindness. It is natural for disciples to imitate their Master.—The Christian's Legacy.

## GOD'S BOOK

A woman missionary in Africa saw an unknown native coming toward her. He was dressed in the customary skins and was leading a goat. He put down his spear and tied up the goat, and then said: "White lady, has God's Book arrived in our country?"

"Are you interested in God's Book?" she asked.

"Yes," replied that native; "my son brought me these pieces of paper, and has been teaching me the words, 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.' I heard that God's Book had arrived, and I have walked for five days, and I have brought this goat to buy God's Book."

Then she showed him a copy of the Bible and found the place where the words were printed.

"Give me that Book," he entreated, "and you may keep this goat."

Then he walked up and down, pressing the Book to his heart, and saying, "God's Book. God's Book. He has spoken. God has spoken to us in our own language."—Apples of Gold.

## The Triumphant Christian

Oliver G. Wilson, D. D.

A study of history shows that triumphant Christians in every century have been marked by certain characteristics. It has mattered little what station in life the believer occupied, the characteristics and attitudes remain similar.

They had a profound sense of God—God who manifested Himself to the inner man, who was real and personal, Who loved righteousness and hated iniquity; God whose commands were supreme and whose will was law.

They had deep religious convictions which made them superior to popular fads, independent of current opinions, and not afraid to stand with small minorities.

They had a compassionate heart that lost sight of self in sacrificial service—a service that alters lives; that makes the wilful, obedient; the proud, humble; that keeps the light of hope shining for those who follow.

They possessed a willingness to suffer if need be—not a patient endurance filled with self-pity, but that quality of soul that "took joyfully the spoiling of their goods," that rejoiced in tribulation and, though seemed with scars, ever radiated hope.

They were intensely aggressive, zealous and courageous. The living sacrifice must blaze with a consuming fire lest the vultures of doubt carry off the offering.

They were gripped with a faith that never made its last trip, that never made its final effort, and in darkness knew no doubt. Jeremiah said the city would be destroyed, but there would be another city; the people would go into captivity, but a remnant would return.

When sainthood dies the above characteristics are difficult to find. Perhaps the slow snail's pace of much of the work of God in this our day is for want of the qualities of godliness which have marked the moral giants for every century. This may be an explanation of the defeated, lukewarm lives of many professing followers of Christ.

To build up a protective similarity to the age in which we live is to build upon the sand. He who follows the pattern of the age will never influence the thinking of the next generation.

The salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ is more than an expression of ancient and high sounding platitudes; it becomes a very part of the soul. It becomes the cohesive force which gives solidity to the whole life.

If you would live triumphantly, look long into the face of God, walk close by the side of the conquering Christ, and believe with a crusading passion that only Christ can meet the needs of this age, of every age. Be willing to spend your all as well as yourself for your convictions.

The triumphant Christian is superior to beatings, to slander, to imprisonments, to torture, and to death. If some of us are compelled to demonstrate this with our lives, may Almighty God be our strong tower and our defence.—Wesleyan Methodist.

The Test of Life—"If you do not bring any strain to bear upon timber, one kind is as good as another. A splinter of a broom is as good as the best ash or hickory if you do not put any weight upon it—if you lay it down on the carpet and do nothing with it. And when men are tried in life, what they are is made to appear."

## Not Convenient

"Nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient". Eph. 5:4.

There are some things which are not convenient. Real Christians are above talking, in the slang and slush of the world. The wicked are said to be foolish; that is, they have no knowledge of the things that are of God. Such persons revel in the folly of sin. The wit of sinners is to the ungodly a sweet morsel, no matter how base and low the point at which they laugh.

There is a jesting that is not convenient, a kind of fun that is not becoming in Christians. Many well-meaning persons have gotten into bondage supposing they are forbidden any kind of pleasantry. They have forgotten the laughter of childhood, which is innocent. That the children of God are to rejoice is the exhortation; but it is to be in the Lord—in what He is, and in what He has made, and in the way He has made us. But the kind of jesting that is below the standards of Christians is the kind that savors of the world, the coarse kind that belongs to the ungodly.

There is a wholesome fun that is restful to the weary body and ragged nerves. There is such a thing as sanctified humor. I have seen it used to arouse a weary congregation into new life, thus giving the preacher opportunity to minister the Word with great effect. But even the sense of the funny side of life may grieve the Spirit by being out of season.

To joke of holy things and to play on words that are sacred is "not convenient." To have fun at the expense of another's embarrassment may lead to spiritual loss. Testimonies can be rendered of no effect by catchy witticisms that provoke laughter rather than edifying. Let us be admonished against that type of levity which merely tickles but never blesses.

Some persons' idea of a "good meeting" is one full of antics in pulpit and pew, that savors of the circus and not of the sacred. Clownishness in the pulpit will make a service a joke. The presence of the Spirit is never attended with nonsense of the vaudeville type. Holy joy is different from a fit of amusement.

—Heart and Life.

## "PRAYING ALWAYS . . .

For All Saints" (Eph. 6:18)

One good counsel will suffice just now. Stop praying so much for yourself. Begin to ask unselfish things and see if God will not give you faith. See how much easier it will be to believe for another, than for your own petty self. Try the effect of praying for the world, for definite things, for difficult things, for glorious things, for things that will honor Christ and save mankind; and after you have received a few wonderful answers to prayer in this direction, see if you do not feel stronger to touch your own little burden with a divine faith; and then go back again to the high place of unselfish prayer for others. Have you ever learned the beautiful art of letting God take care of you, and giving all your thought and strength for others, and for the kingdom of God? It will relieve you of a thousand cares. It will lift you up into a lofty sphere, and teach you to live and love like God. Lord, save us from our selfish prayers, and give us the faith that worketh by love, and the heart of Christ for a perishing world!—A. B. Simpson.