

Love is a Strong Word

(1Th 4:9) But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. (10) And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, **that ye increase more and more;** (11) And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; (12) That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that ye may have lack of nothing.*

What is love?

(1Jo 4:7) ...love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (9) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. (16) And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

(Rom 8:35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Eph 3:17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

How can we compare to the love of Christ?

(1Jo 4:7) Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. (12) No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. (17) Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (19) We love him, because he first loved us. (20) If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

1.) “If we love one another, God dwelleth in us...”

LOVE IS AN ACTION

- (Joh 15:13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- (1Jo 3:16) Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us; **and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.** (17) **But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?** (18) **My little children, let us not love in word,**

- neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.** (19) And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him... (23) And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. (24) And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.
- (Luk 6:27) But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, (28) Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. (29) And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also. (30) Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. (31) And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. (32) For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. (33) And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. (34) And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. (35) But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil.

As our love towards God is determined by our obedience to his commandments and action, our love towards each other is determined by our action towards them.

2.) “He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

(1Ki 18:21) And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

How often do these type of situations come up in our lives and in lives of our brothers and sisters and we do the exact same thing out of fear?

The Silent Treatment

- Shyness
 - My shyness- selfish and immature
 - We excuse ourselves from our duties as Christians because we’re naturally shy and quiet, sometimes. Many times, like in my case, I was really scared and unsure of what others thought.
 - Many times, our shyness is perceived by others and disregard and pride. They see us hanging out with just our friends from church, and even though shyness might be what’s in our hearts, they see a clique, which we’ll discuss in a few minutes.
 - Do you think the apostles let shyness hold them back?
 - (2Co 10:9) That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. (10) For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible.
 - (Phi 4:13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
- Neglect
 - Letting shyness and fear keep us from sharing the gospel...
 - The apostles

- Pentecost
- Prison
- In front of kings, Jews, etc.
- Letting shyness and fear keep us from correcting our loved ones...
 - (Mat 18:12) How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? (13) And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. (14) Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. (15) Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. (16) But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. (17) And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.
 - Most read that as a commandment of withdrawal. Why is it that it's immediately preceded with the parable of the 99? Because it's about love! If we have the love of Christ, we won't be afraid of losing a friend, brother, family member, etc. We'll do what he says there...

So, fear in the actions of our love to others shows a lack of love within ourselves. So, I think we should start questioning how much we really do love our fellow man. How does it stack up to the love that Christ had for us? I think we'll all see that we have our prejudices. We have people that we fear. We have people that we give the silent treatment. We have people that we think we love, but when you consider how we actually treat them, maybe it isn't so... What is the ultimate lack of love?

3.) "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar..."

(1Jo 3:11) For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (12) Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death. (15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

- How do we respond to those in the world hating us? Do we love them as we've already studied we should?
- Do we love them as much as Christ, who would instead of letting the hate get to him, show them even more love?
- As love isn't just a word or thought, hate isn't just a word or thought either. You may say that you love someone, but the fact of the matter is that your deeds don't show it. No matter what you say, your deeds can easily prove that you hate someone...

(1Jo 2:3) And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is

not in him. (5) But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (6) He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (7) Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. (8) Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. (9) He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. (10) He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. (11) But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

So, what do our actions show to our brothers? What do our actions show to the world? Sure, we've been taught all our lives to love God and to love our neighbors, right? It's easy for us to say that we love each other. We do it often. I think too often. Because, many times, I found myself to be a liar by the way that I treat others...

- Cliques and cults (family)- (Jam 2:9) But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. (Rom 2:11) For there is no respect of persons with God.
- Backbiting- they do the exact opposite of what's in Matthew 18 that we read earlier. (Rom 1:30) Backbiters... (32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.
- Busybodies- (1Ti 5:12) Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. (13) And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.
- Gossip and slander- (Mat 12:34) O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. (35) A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. (36) But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. (37) For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

(Rom 13:10) "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour..."

(1Th4:8) He therefore that despiseth [rejects], despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. So, as we read that scripture, if you see yourself despising ANYONE, start thinking about which strong word you have in your heart.

So, do we actually love one another? OR Do we actually hate one another?
Do we actually love our enemies? OR Do we really hate them?
Are we scared to love?

CONCLUSION:

(Mat 18:1) At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (2) And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, (3) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Christ knew best! Love is most easily molded when our hearts are tender. It's just like deer hunting.

Moberly add-on:

So, maybe we should start consulting the youth who have more perfect love when situations arise of conflict?

[\(1Co 6:4\)](#) If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.