



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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Volume 70, No. 2



I LOVE YOU!

Be My Valentine!



LOVE?

Love is more easily described than defined. It usually involves intimate knowledge, kindness, loyalty, and responsibility. In its basic Biblical sense love is not only an emotion but a deep expression of the

total personality; it is not caused by any goodness in its object but is the free, creative, and unmerited response of the one who loves.

A dictionary definition of love is: A feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a friend, for a parent or child, and so forth; warm fondness or liking for another; also, the benevolent affection of God for His creatures or the reverent affection due from them to God; also, the kindly affection properly expressed by God's creatures toward one another; that strong or passionate affection for a person of the opposite sex that constitutes the emotional incentive to conjugal (marriage) union. One of the synonyms (another word having a similar meaning) is "devotion."

The Scriptures use "love" in all the foregoing meanings, and also add to the meaning of the word. Aside from those meanings, the Scriptures speak also of even love for one's enemies, for whom a person may not have affection. This facet or expression of love is an unselfish devotion to righteousness and a sincere concern for the lasting welfare of others, along with an active expression of this for their good.

The words 'a·hav' and 'a·hev' ("to love") and 'a·havah' ("love") are the words primarily used in Hebrew to denote love in the foregoing senses, the context determining the sense and degree meant.

The Christian Greek Scriptures mainly employ forms of the words a·ga'pe, phi·li'a and two words drawn from stor·ge' (e'ros, love between

the sexes, not being used), a·ga'pe appearing more frequently than the other terms.

Of the noun a·ga'pe and the verb form a·ga·pa'o, Love can be known only from the action it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son, I John 4:9-10. But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects, Romans 5:8. It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself, Deut. 7:7,8.

Scriptures teach us that to love life, from an undue desire to preserve it, forgetful of the real object of living, meets with the Lord's reproof, John 12:25. On the contrary, to love life as used in I Peter 3:10, is to consult the true interests of living.

A Greek Dictionary of the New Testament remarks under phi·le'o: "To be a friend to (fond of 'an individual or an object') for example: have affection for (denoting personal attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling; while (agapao) is wider, embracing especially the judgement and the deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty and propriety.



Agape, therefore, carries the meaning of love guided or governed by principle. It may or may not include affection and fondness. That agape may include affection and warmth is evident in many passages. At John 3:35, Jesus said: "The Father loves (agapai) the Son." Certainly God's love for Jesus Christ is coupled with much affection. Also He explained: "He that loves (agapon) me will be loved (agapethesetai) by my Father, and I will love (agapeso) him." (John 14:21) This love of the Father and of the Son is accompanied by tender affection for such loving persons. God's people must love Him and His Son, as well as one another, in the same way. (John 21:15-17).

So, although distinguished by respect for principle, love is not unfeeling; otherwise it would not differ from cold justice. But it is not ruled by feeling or sentiment; it never ignores principle. Christians rightly show love towards others for whom they may feel no affection or fondness, doing so for their welfare. (Gal. 6:10). Yet, though not affection, they do feel compassion and sincere concern for such fellow humans, to the limits and in the way that righteous principles allow and direct.



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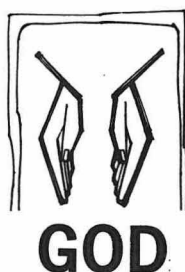
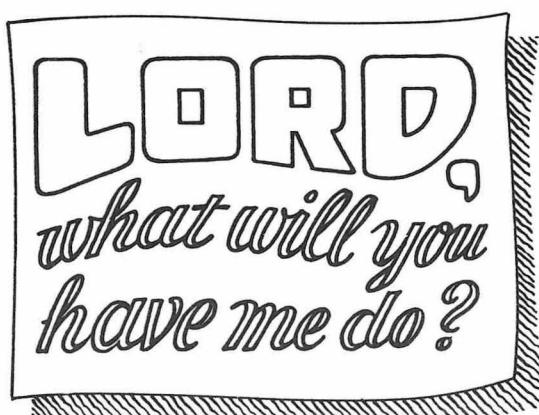
LOVE!

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However, while *agape* refers to love governed by principle, there are good and bad principles. A wrong kind of love could be expressed, guided by bad principles. For example, Jesus said: "If you love those loving you, of what credit is it to you? For even the sinners love those loving them. And if you do good to those doing good to you, really of what credit is it to you? Even the sinners do the same. Also, if you lend without interest to those from whom you hope to receive, of what credit is it to you? Even sinners lend without interest to sinners that they may get back as much." (Luke 6:32-34). The principle upon which such ones operate is: 'Do good to me and I will do good to you.'

The apostle Paul said of one who had worked alongside him: "Demas has forsaken me because he loved the present system of things." (2 Tim. 4-10). Demas apparently loved the world on the principle that love of it will bring material things and benefits. The apostle John says: "Men have loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were wicked. For he that practices vile things hates the light and does not come to the light, in order that his works may not be reproved." (John 3:19-20). Because it is a truth or principle that darkness helps cover their wicked deeds, they love it.

Jesus commanded: "Love your enemies." (Matt. 5:44). God himself established the principle, as the apostle Paul states: "God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. . . For if, when we were enemies, we became reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, now that we have become reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Rom. 5:8-10). An outstanding instance of such love is God's dealing with Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul. (Acts 9:1-16; 1 Tim. 1:15). Loving our enemies, therefore, should be governed by the principle established by God and should be exercised in obedience to His commandments, whether or not such love is accompanied by any warmth or affection.



The apostle John writes: "God is love." (1 John 4:8). He is the very personification of love, which is His dominant quality. God has also other attributes, among them justice, power, and wisdom. (Deut. 32:4; Job 36:22; Rev. 7:12). Moreover, He has the capacity to hate, a quality the very opposite of love. His love of righteousness requires His hatred of wickedness. (Deut. 12:31; Prov. 6:16). Love includes the feeling and expression of warm personal feelings and affection, which only a person can have, or which can be extended toward a person. Certainly God's Son Jesus Christ is not an abstract quality, and He spoke of being with His Father, working with Him, pleasing Him, hearing Him, and of angels beholding the face of His Father, things impossible with a mere abstract quality. (Matt. 10:32, 18:10; John 5:17; 6:46; 8:28, 29, 40; 17:5).

Evidence of His Love

The evidence that God The Creator and God of the Universe is love is abundant. This can be seen in the physical creation itself. With what remarkable care it has been made for the health, pleasure and welfare of man! Man is made so as, not only to exist, but to enjoy eating, to delight in viewing the color and beauty of creation, the company of animals and especially of his fellowmen, in communication with them, and in the countless other delights of living. (Ps. 139:14, 17, 18). But even more has God displayed His love in making man in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26, 27), with the capability of love and of spirituality, and in the revelation of Himself to man through His Word and His Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:12-13).

God's love toward mankind is that of a Father toward His children. (Matt. 5:45). He spares nothing that is for their good, no matter what it costs Him! His love transcends anything that we can feel or express. (Eph. 2:4-7; Isa. 55:8). His greatest manifestation of love, the most loving thing that a parent can do, he did for mankind. That was the giving of the life of his own faithful, only-begotten Son. (John 3:16). As the apostle John writes: "As for us, we love, because He loved us first." (1 John 4:19). He is, accordingly, the Source of love. John's fellow apostle, Paul, writes: "For hardly will anyone die for a righteous man; indeed, for the good man, per-

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haps, someone even dares to die, but God recommends His own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:7,8; 1 John 4:10).

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LOVE

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God's Everlasting Love

God's love for his faithful servants is everlasting; it does not fail or diminish, no matter in what circumstances, high or low, His servants may be, nor what things, great or small, may come against them. The apostle Paul exclaimed: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor governments nor things now here nor things to come nor powers nor height nor depth nor any other creation will be able to separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:38,39).



God's Sovereignty Based on Love

God glories in the fact that His sovereignty and the support of it by His creatures is based primarily on love. He desires only those who love His sovereignty because of His fine qualities and because it is righteous, who prefer His sovereignty to any other. (1 Cor. 2:9). They choose to serve under His sovereignty rather than try to be independent, such is their knowledge of Him and His love, justice and wisdom, far surpassing their own. (Ps.84:10, 11). The Devil failed in this respect, egotistically seeking independence for himself, as did Adam and Eve. In fact, the Devil challenged God's way of ruling, saying, in effect, that it was unloving, unrighteous. (Gen. 3:1-5), and that God's creatures did not serve Him because of love, but through selfishness. (Job 1:8-12; 2:3-5).

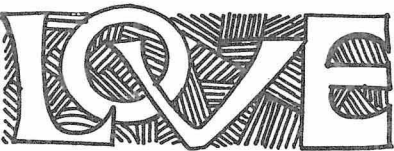
God allowed the Devil to live and to put his servants, even His only-begotten Son, to the test, to the point of death. God foretold the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. (Isa.58). How could He do this, staking His word on His Son? Because of love. He knew His Son and He knew the love His Son had for His Father and for righteousness (Heb. 1:9). God knew His Son most intimately and thoroughly. (Matt. 11:27). He had full trust and confidence in the Son's faithfulness. More than that, He had the basis for certainty, since "love never fails"; "love is a perfect bond of union." (1 Cor. 13:8; Col. 3:14). It is the most powerful bond in the universe, perfect love bonding the Son and the Father together

unbreakably. For like reasons, God could trust His organization of servants, that love would hold most of them unmovably to Him under test, and that His organization of creatures would never secede *in toto*. (totally or all together). (Ps. 110:3).



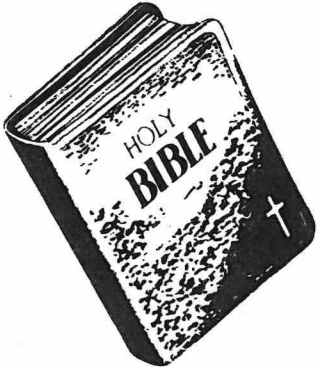
JESUS CHRIST

Being for untold ages associated with His Father, the Source of love and knowing Him most intimately and throughly, Jesus Christ could say: "He that has seen Me has seen the Father also." (John 14:9; Matt. 11:27). Therefore Jesus' love is complete, perfect. (Ephesians 3:19; Col. 2:9). He told us and His disciples: "No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his life in behalf of his friends." (John 15:13). He told them: "I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34). This commandment was new, in that the Law, under which Jesus and his disciples were at that time, commanded a person: "You must love your fellow (or neighbor) as yourself." (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39). It called for neighbor love but not for a self-sacrificing love, even to the point of giving one's own life in his behalf. Jesus' life and death exemplified the love this new commandment called for. The follower of Christ is not only to do good when the occasion arises, rather, he is to take the initiative, under Christ's direction, to help others spiritually and otherwise. He is to work actively for their good. The preaching and teaching of the good news to others, some of whom may be enemies, is one of the greatest expressions of love because it can result in everlasting life to them. The Christian must 'impart, not only the good news of God, but also his own soul' in helping and working with those who accept the good news. (1 Thes. 2:8). And he should be ready to surrender his life in behalf of them. (1 John 3:16).



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DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE



Bible Reading

FOR FEBRUARY 1978

PARABLES OF JESUS

1	.....Mark 4:1-20.....
2	.....Mark 4:21-29.....
3	.....Mark 4:30-33.....
4	.....Matthew 13:24-30,36-43.....
5	Sunday...Luke 13:20-21.....
6	.....Matthew 13:44-46.....
7	.....Matthew 13:47-50.....
8	Ash Wed..Matthew 18:23-35.....
9	.....Matthew 20:1-16.....
10	.....Matthew 21:28-32.....
11	.....Matthew 21:33-46.....
12	Sunday...Matthew 25:14-30.....
13	.....Matthew 25:31-46.....
14	.....Luke 15: 3-7.....
15	.....John 10:1-18.....
16	.....Luke 7:36-50.....
17	.....Luke 10:25-37.....
18	.....Luke 12:16-21.....
19	Sunday...Luke 12:35-48.....
20	.....Luke 13:6-9.....
21	.....Luke 15:8-10.....
22	.....Luke 15:11-32.....
23	.....Luke 16:1-13.....
24	.....Luke 16:19-31.....
25	.....Luke 18:1-8.....
26	Sunday...Luke 18:9-14.....
27	.....Luke 19:11-27.....
28	.....Matthew 25:1-13.....

SOME FACTS ABOUT LENT

CHURCH YEAR: The season of pre-Lent (Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima, the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday, take their names from Latin words indicating that they fall respectively within 70, 60, and 50 days before Easter) partakes of some of the characteristics of Lent. In the 1970's a movement arose to extend the Epiphany season to the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and to have the second part of the church year more generally recognized as "after Pentecost" rather than "after Trinity" season.

The season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is a period of penitential reflection. It climaxes in Paschiontide (the last two weeks of Lent: Passion Week, the second week before Easter; and Holy Week, also called Great Week, formerly called Passion Week, in which Palm Sunday and the "three great days," Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (also called the Great Sabbath) receive most attention.

-from Lutheran Encyclopedia

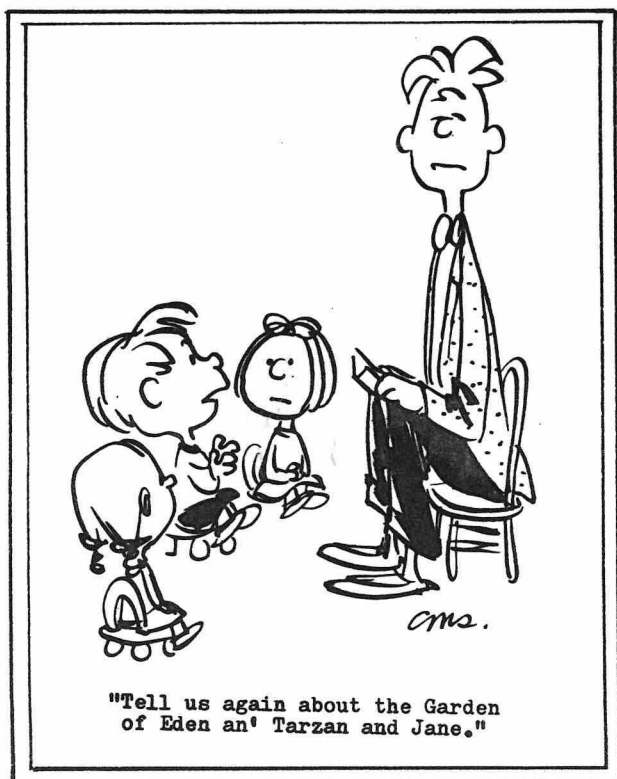
LOVE

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How One Acquires Love



Love is a fruit of God's spirit. (Gal. 5:22). God's Spirit was employed in creating the first man and woman, giving them a measure of this attribute of God, namely, love, and the capacity to extend, enlarge and enrich it. For love is not a quality that one has and does not know why, as is the case with certain physical or mental abilities, such as physical beauty or talent in music, and similar inherited qualities. Godly love cannot exist in the person apart from knowledge, and additionally, meditation, appreciation and service of God. Only by this can one become an imitator of God, the Source of love. (Ps. 77:11; Eph. 5:1; Rom. 12:2). Adam failed in that he did not cultivate love of God; he did not progress toward perfection of love, as shown by the fact that he was not bound to God by that perfect bond of union. Adam, nevertheless, even though imperfect and sinful, passed on to his offspring, "in His image," the ability and capacity to love. (Gen. 5:3). Humankind in general expresses that love, but it is often a misguided, deteriorated, twisted love.



Love Can Be Misguided

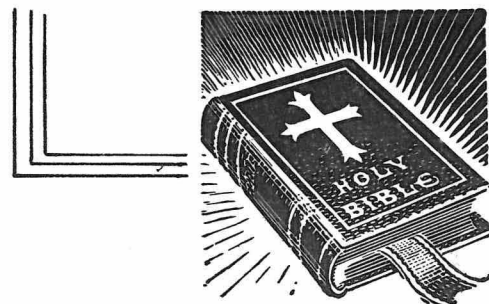
For these reasons, it is evident that real, properly directed love can come only by seeking and following God's Spirit and the knowledge that comes from His Word. For example, a parent may have affection for his child, but he may let love deteriorate or be misguided by sentimentality. He may not exercise his parental authority in giving discipline and at times actual chastisement. (Prov. 22:15). Such supposed "love" may actually be family pride, which is selfishness. The Bible says such a person is exercising, not love, but hate, because he is not taking the course that will save his child's life. (Prov. 13:24; 23:13,14).

This is not the love that comes from God, doing that which is good and beneficial for the other person. "Love builds up." (1 Cor. 8:1) Love is not sentimentality. It is firm, strong, directed by godly wisdom, adhering first of all to that which is chaste and right. (Jas. 3:17). God demonstrated this with Israel, whom he punished severely for disobedience, for their own everlasting welfare. (Deut. 8:5; Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:6). The apostle Paul says to Christians: "It is for discipline you are enduring. God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is he that a father does not discipline? . . . Furthermore, we used to have fathers who were of our flesh to discipline us, and we used to give them respect. Shall we not much more subject ourselves to the Father of our spiritual life and live? For they for a few days used to dis-

cipline us according to what seemed good to them, but He does so for our profit that we may partake of His holiness. True, no discipline seems for the present to be joyous, but grievous; yet afterward to those who have been trained by it it yields peaceable fruit, namely, righteousness." (Heb. 12:7-11).

LOVE

Knowledge of God and His Purposes Gives Love Right Direction



Love must be first to God, above all others. Otherwise it will become misdirected, and even lead into the worship of a creature or thing. Knowing God's purposes is essential, because one knows then what is best for his or her own welfare and that of others and will know how to express love in the proper way. This love to God is described in the Bible as loving Him with one's 'whole heart, mind, soul and strength.' (Matt. 22:36-38; Mark 12:29,30). Love is primarily a quality of the heart. (1 Pet. 1:22), but if the mind is not equipped with knowledge of what true love is and how it acts, the heart's love can be expressed in the wrong direction. (Jer. 10:23; 17:9). The mind must know God and His qualities, His purposes, and how He expresses love. (1 John 4:7). In harmony with this, and since love is the most important quality, dedication God is to the person of God himself (in whom love is

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The New Mother



by Hal Carpenter
picture by Iris Beatty Johnson

This is the true story of a boy who lived more than a hundred years ago.

He lived in a tiny cabin with his older sister and his father.

His mother was dead.

One day in the cold winter of 1819, when the boy was 10 years old, the father drove away in a wagon, and when he came back, there were four other people in the wagon besides himself.

The four others were the boy's new mother and three children!

As soon as the new mother stepped into the cabin, she got a great shock.

It was a very poor home! Just a plain dirt floor! No windows! No fire in the fireplace!

And then she stared at the boy and his sister. They stood there dressed in rags, shivering with the cold, and looking dirty and hungry and unhappy!

"Children," said the father, "this is your new mother!"

The boy and his sister made a little bow. They gazed at the mother and her three children, who were all neatly dressed. Nobody said anything.

Nobody seemed to know what to say! Then the boy, whose name was Abe, smiled a little to his new mother. And he said to her, "I'll fix the fire right away, ma'am."

The new mother looked at him, and she just put her hand on his shoulder.

In that moment both the boy and his sister knew that this new mother was going to be a good mother!

It was true.

The new mother changed everything. She went right to work. Everybody helped her, especially the boy, Abe.

In a very short time the cabin seemed like a new home. Abe and his sister had clean clothes, and they no longer looked hungry. Almost every day they enjoyed their new mother's corn pone and bacon.

They were happy now.

Every time the little family sat down to eat their meals, the father would pray: "Fit and prepare us for himble service, we beg for Christ's sake. Amen."

So God blessed this poor,

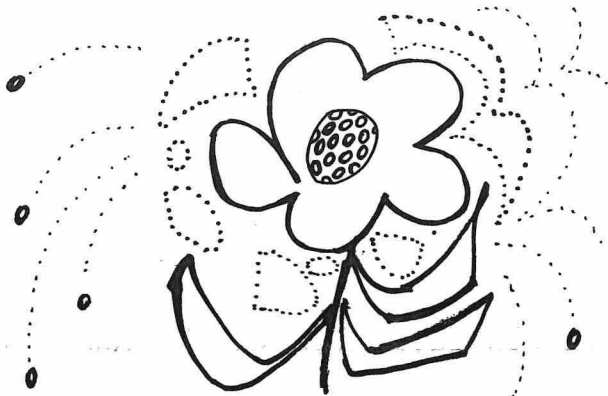
unhappy family with a new mother, who loved them and made them happy again.

She also helped the boy, Abe, to learn from books. This was very important, for 41 years later this same poor country boy, Abe, had become the president of the United States, and today we remember him as Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest, wisest, and best-loved men of all time!

LOVE

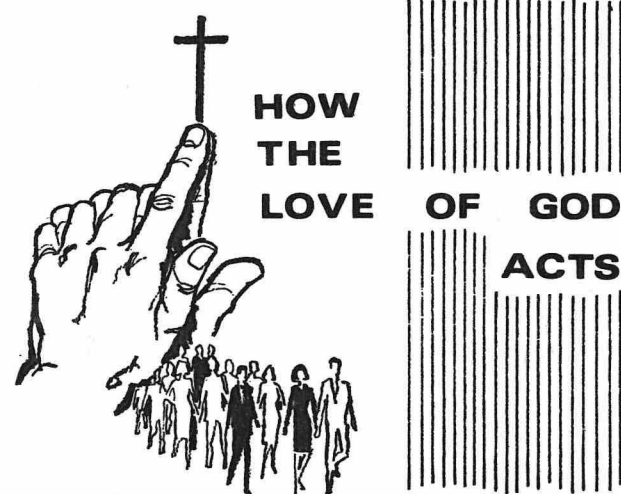
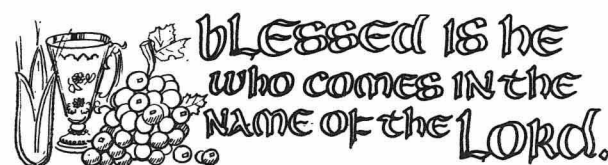
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the dominant quality), and is not to a work or a cause. Then, the soul, every fiber of one's organism, must carry out the love that is motivated by the heart and directed by the mind, and all one's strength must be put behind the effort.



Love is Expansive

The true love that is a fruit of God's Spirit is expansive (outgoing). (2 Cor. 6:11-13). It is not stingy, confined or circumscribed. It must be shared to be complete. One must first love God and His Son, then the whole association of his Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world. (1 Pet. 2:17; 1 John 2:10; 4:20,21). He must love his wife, and she her husband. Love is to be extended to one's children (Titus 2:4), all mankind, even a person's own enemies, are to be loved and Christian works are to be exercised toward them. The Bible, commenting on the fruits of the spirit, of which love is first, says: "Against such things there is no law." (Gal. 5:22,23). This love has no law that can limit it. It may be practiced at any time or place to any extent toward those to whom it is due. In fact, the only debt Christians should be owing one another is love. (Rom. 13:8). This love for one another is an identifying mark of true Christians. (John 13:35).



Love, such as God is, is so wonderful that it is hard to define. It is easier to tell how it acts. In the following discussion of this fine quality its application to Christians will be considered, for the apostle Paul, in writing on the subject, first emphasizes how essential it is for a Christian believer, then details how it acts unselfishly: "Love is long suffering and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury. It does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

"Love is long-suffering and kind."

It puts up with unfavorable conditions and wrong actions of others with a purpose, to work out the eventual salvation of those doing wrong or of others involved in the circumstances, and to bring honor and vindication, finally, to God's name. (2 Pet. 3:15). Love is kind, no matter what the provocation may be. Roughness or harshness on the part of a Christian toward others would not accomplish any good. Nonetheless, love can be firm and act in justice in behalf of righteousness, those having authority disciplining wrongdoers; but even then, kindness is employed. Unkindness brings no benefit to the doer and can separate the one doing unrighteousness even farther from repentance and right works. (Rom. 2:4; Eph. 4:32; Titus 3:4).

"Love is not jealous." It is not envious of good things coming to others. It rejoices in seeing a fellowman receiving a position of greater responsibility. It does not begrudge even one's enemies receiving good things. It is generous. God makes his rain fall on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matt. 5:45). God's servants having love are content with their lot and their place, not getting out of place or selfishly seeking the position occupied by another. Satan the Devil selfishly and enviously did get out of his place, even desiring worship to be given to him by Jesus Christ. (Luke 4:5-8).

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LOVE

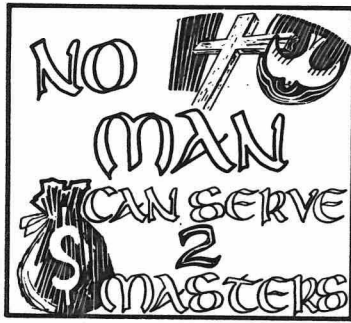
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Love "does not brag, does not get puffed up." It does not seek the applause and admiration of creatures. (Ps. 75:4-7; Jude 16) One having love will not push the other person down to make himself appear greater. Rather, he will exalt God, and sincerely encourage and build up other persons. (Rom. 1:8; Col. 1:3-5). He will be happy to see another Christian make advancement. And he will not boast of what he is doing or is going to do. He will realize that all he does is due to the strength coming from God. (Ps. 34:2; 44:8). God told Israel: "Let the one bragging about himself brag about himself because of this very thing, the having of insight and the having of knowledge of me, that I am the Lord, the One exercising loving-kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I do take delight." (Jer. 9:24; 1 Cor. 1:31).

Love "does not behave indecently." It is not ill-mannered. It does not engage in indecent behavior, such as sexual abuses or shocking conduct. It is not rude, vulgar, discourteous, insolent or coarse, or disrespectful to anyone. One having love will avoid doing things that, in appearance or actions, disturb his Christian brothers and sisters. Paul instructed the congregation at Corinth: "Let all things take place decently and in order." (1 Cor. 14:40). Love will also prompt one to walk honorably in the view of others who are not Christian believers. (Romans 13:13; 1 Thess. 4:12; 1 Tim. 3:7).

Love "does not look for its own interests." It follows the principle: "Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person." (1 Cor. 10:24). Here is where concern for the everlasting welfare of others shows itself. This sincere concern for others is the strongest motivating force in love, and one of the most effective and beneficial in its results. The possessor of love does not demand that everything be done his way. Paul said: "To the weak I become weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, that I might by all means save some. But I do all things for the sake of the good news that I may become a sharer of it with others." (1 Cor. 9:22, 23). Neither does love demand its "rights". It is more concerned with the spiritual welfare of the other person. (Rom. 14:13, 15)

Love "does not become provoked." It is not looking for an occa-



sion or an excuse for provocation. It is not moved to outbursts of anger, which is a weakness and work of the flesh. (Gal. 5:19, 20). One having love is not easily offended by what others say or do. He or she is not afraid that his personal "dignity" may be injured.

Love "does not keep account of the injury." It does not consider itself to be injured and so lay up that injury as something 'on the books of account,' to be settled, paid off in due time, in the meantime, permitting no relations between the injured and the injurer to be carried on. This would be a vengeful spirit, condemned in the Bible. (Lev. 19:18; Rom. 12:19). Love will not impute evil motives to another, but will be inclined to make allowances and give others the benefit of the doubt. (Rom. 14:1, 5).

Love "does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth". It always sides with the right, finding no pleasure in wrong or in lies, or in any form of injustice, no matter if it is an enemy who is the victim. However, if a thing is wrong or misleading, it does not fear to speak out in the interests of truth and of others. (Gal. 2:11-14). Also, it prefers to suffer wrong rather than commit another wrong in an attempt to straighten out the matter. But if another person is properly corrected by one having authority, the loving person will not sentimentally side with the chastised one and find fault with the correction or the authorized one who did the correcting. Such an action would not be love for the individual. It might gain the corrected one's favor, but would harm rather than help him. Love rejoices with the truth, even though it upsets previous beliefs held or statements made. It sticks with God's Word of truth.

Love "bears all things." It is willing to endure, to suffer for righteousness' sake. One having love will be slow to expose to others one who wrongs him. If the offense is not too serious, he or she will overlook it. Otherwise he or she will follow the course recommended by Jesus at Matthew 18:15-17. If the other person asks forgiveness after the wrong is privately pointed out to him or her, and repairs the damage, the one having love



will show that his or her forgiveness is real, that it has completely covered the matter, as God has. (Prov. 10:12; 17:19).

Love "believes all things." Love has faith in the things God has said in His Word of truth, even though outward appearances are against it and the unbelieving world scoffs. This love, especially toward God, is a recognition of His truthfulness, based on His record of faithfulness and reliability, just as we know and love a true, faithful friend and do not doubt when he tells us something for which we may not have proof. (Josh. 23:14). Love believes all God says, though it may not be able to grasp it thoroughly, and it is willing to wait patiently until the matter is more fully explained or until getting an understanding. (1 Cor. 13:9-12). Love also trusts in God's direction of the Christian congregation and His appointed servants and backs up their decisions based on God's Word. (Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17). However, love is not gullible, for it follows God's Word to "test the inspired expressions to see whether they originate with God," and tests everything by the measuring rule of the Bible. (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11, 12). Love produces confidence in one's faithful Christian brothers and sisters, not suspecting them or disbelieving them unless there is absolute proof that they are wrong. (2 Cor. 2:3).



Love "hopes all things." It has hope in all the things God has promised. (Rom. 12:12; Heb. 3:6). It continues to work, waiting patiently for God to bring fruitage, to make things grow. (1 Cor. 3:7). A person having love will hope the best for his Christian brothers and sisters though any circumstances in which they might be, even though some may be weak in faith. He will realize that if God is patient with such weak ones, he should certainly adopt the same attitude. (2 Pet. 3:15). And those he is helping to learn the truth he continues to assist, hoping and waiting for them to be moved by God's spirit to serve Him.

Love "endures all things." Love is required for the Christian to keep his integrity toward God.

(please turn to page 7)

LOVE

(continued from page 6)

There is nothing the Devil can do to test the soundness of the Christian's devotion and faithfulness to God but what love will endure in a way that holds him true to God. (Rom. 5:3-5; Matt. 10:22).



"Love never fails"; it endures and continues to grow. New knowledge and understanding may correct things we once believed; hope changes as the hoped-for things are realized and new things are hoped for, but love always remains in its fullness and continues to be built up stronger and stronger. (1 Cor. 13:8-13).

"A Time To Love"



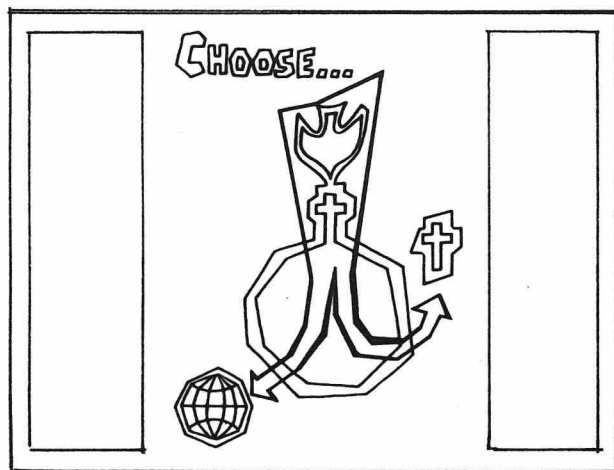
As to the period of its extension to others, love is restricted only toward those whom God shows are unworthy of it, or toward those set in a course of badness. Love is extended to all persons until they show they are haters of God. Then the time comes for love's expression toward them to end. Both God and Jesus Christ love righteousness and hate lawlessness. (Ps. 45:7; Heb. 1:9). Those who intensely hate the true God are not persons toward whom love is to be extended or expressed. Indeed, it would accomplish no good to continue exercising love toward such ones, for those who hate God will not respond to His loving-kindness. (Ps. 139:21,22; Isa. 26:10). Therefore God properly hates them and has a time to act against them. (Ps. 21:8, 9; Eccl. 3:1,8).

Things Not To Be Loved

The apostle John writes: "Do not be loving either the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him; because everything in the world - the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one's means of life -

does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. (1 John 2:15, 16). He says, later on, "the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one." (1 John 5:19). Accordingly, those who love God hate every evil way. (Ps. 101:3; 119:104, 128; Prov. 8:13; 13:5).

While the Bible shows that husbands and wives should love should love one another, and this love includes the conjugal relationship. It points out the wrongness of sexual love toward another not one's spouse, a fleshly, worldly practice. Another thing of the world is materialism, "love of money", literally, "fondness of silver", which is the root of all evil, of all sorts of injurious things. (1 Tim. 6:10; Heb. 13:5).



Jesus Christ scathingly denounced the hypocritical religious leaders of the Jews who liked to pray standing on the broadways to be visible to men, and who loved the prominent places at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues. He pointed out that they had already received in full their reward, that which they loved and desired, namely, honor and glory from men; therefore no reward at all was due them from God. (Matt. 6:5; 23:2, 5-7). The record reads: "Many even of the rulers actually put faith in Jesus, but because of the Pharisees they would not confess Him, in order not to be expelled from the synagogue; for they loved the glory of men more than even the glory of God." (John 12:42, 43; 5:44).

Christ, in speaking to His disciples about His death, emphasized that those who wished to be His ministers would have to follow Him, He said: "He that is fond of his soul destroys it, but he that hates his soul in this world will safeguard it for everlasting life." (John 12:23-25). One who preferred to protect his life now rather than to be willing to lay down his life as a follower of Christ would lose out on everlasting life, but he that considered life in this world as secondary, and who loved God and His Son, Christ, and their righteousness above everything else would receive everlasting life.

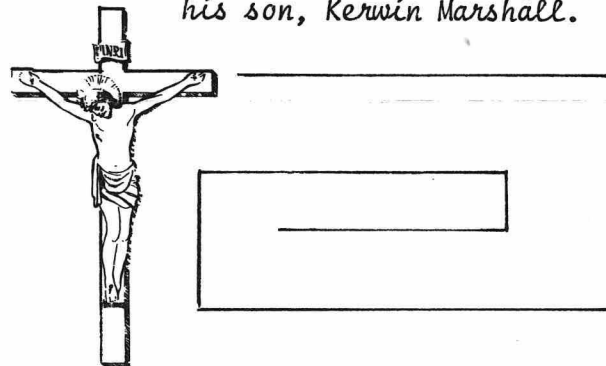
God hates liars, for they have no love of the truth. He declared to the apostle John in a vision: "Outside the holy city, New Jerusalem, are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolators and everyone liking and carrying on a lie." (Rev. 22:15; 2 Thess. 2:10-12).

One's Love Can Cool Off

Jesus Christ, in telling his disciples of the things ahead, indicated that the love of many who professed belief in God would cool off. (Matt. 24:3, 12). The apostle Paul said that, as a feature of the critical times to come, men would become "lovers of money." (2 Tim. 3:1,2). It is evident, therefore, that one can lose sight of right principles and that the proper love he once had can fade away. This emphasizes the importance of the exercise and development of love by prayer and meditation on God's Word and by molding one's life according to His principles. (Eph. 4:15,22-24).

-from the book,
AID TO BIBLE UNDERSTANDING

A gift to the Editor from
his son, Kerwin Marshall.



Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him the Lord of Love.

Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.

No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wondering eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven,
enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is given
the wondrous name of Love,
Crown Him with many crowns

as thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye Kings, with many crowns,
for He is King of all!

-amen


* * * * *

This started out to be a short article on LOVE, but as more and more books were read on the subject, the story grew so that it has nearly filled every page of this issue.

I hope and pray that my readers will find this issue and subject helpful and that the understanding of LOVE will be more meaningful to them in all facets of their lives, especially their relationship with God.

Responses by "Letters to The Editor" will be appreciated.

Thank you.



Children's Page

He loves each one of us, as
if there were only one of us.
St. Augustine

Discovering new worlds today!

-from Young Explorers

When Lori was a new born baby, everyone thought she was like other newborn babies. But as she grew older, Lori could not do the things other babies do. What was the matter?

One day when Lori was about two years old the doctors' tests showed that she was deaf. "What should we do now?" was the question Lori's father and mother asked. What would you have done?

For the next year until Lori was three years old Lori's father and mother tried to teach her how to read lips, but Lori was too young. Instead, Lori often cried because she could not tell others what she wanted or what she was thinking.

Then a new friend, Mr. Van Manen, came into Lori's life. He, like Lori, was also deaf. He was at that time, a printer. Today Mr. Van Manen is one of our deaf Lay-ministers and I.L.D.A. Secretary. When he first met Lori he was her Sunday School teacher at church. One day he said to Lori's father and mother, "Why don't you teach Lori the sign language that many deaf people use?"

Lori's mother started first with a few hand signs - the signs for cookie, candy, milk, and water. Lori's mother said, "Each time I gave Lori a cookie I held it to her, made the sign, then waited for her to repeat the sign. That evening I noticed her trying to do something with her hands, and it dawned on me that she was making the sign for cookie."

What a wonderful surprise for Lori! Someone knew what she wanted! Lori's mother said, "When I brought her the cookie, the look she gave us told us that the barrier was broken."

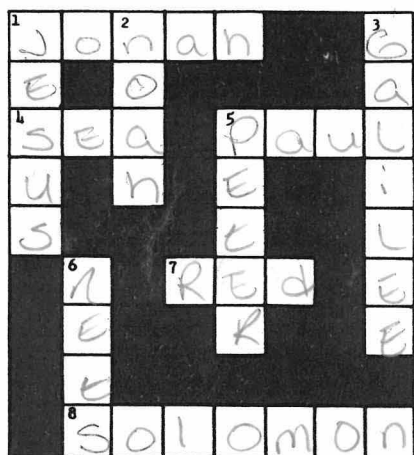
From that time on Lori could hardly wait until her father and mother could learn the signs themselves so they could teach them to her.

Lori's mother went to sign class once a week to learn the signs to teach Lori. Lori's mother said, "I would pray all the way that I would remember the signs long enough to teach Lori and the rest of the family: Lori's two sisters and Daddy."

Now the world is open to Lori. She could reach out to learn, but a new world also was opened to Lori's family - together they all could share their lives, and most important, they could share Jesus, their Friend and Savior.

Bible Men and the Sea

A Puzzle by Barbara Andrews



Across:

1. He was thrown into the sea to calm the storm. (Jonah 1:15)
4. Jesus walked on the _____ (John 6:19)

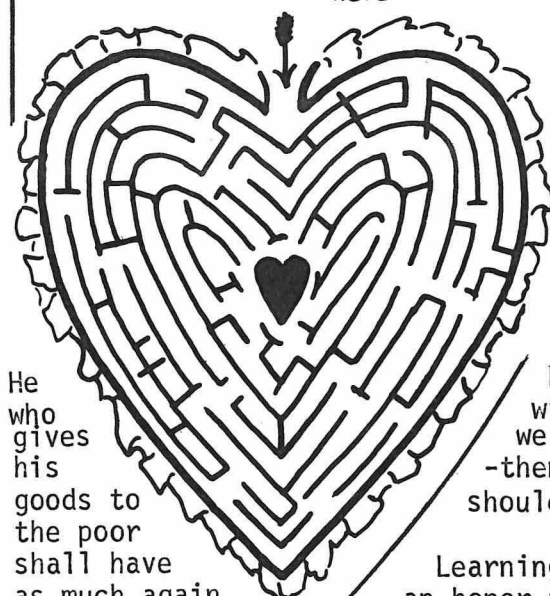
5. He was shipwrecked. (Acts 27:41-44)
7. God parted the waters of this sea. (Exodus 13:18 and 14:21)
8. He had cedar logs brought by sea to build the temple. (1 Kings 5:2, 6)

Down:

1. He made the stormy sea calm. (Matthew 8:26)
2. He built the Bible's first house-boat. (Genesis 7)
3. Jesus taught on the shores of this sea. (Matthew 4:18)
5. A fisherman called by Jesus. (Matthew 4:18)
6. Jesus told the fishermen where to put down their _____ (Luke 5:4)

Valentine Hunt

Start here



He who gives his goods to the poor shall have as much again, and ten times more.

... by Lucy Hamilton

Peter lost this valentine going home from school on Valentine Day.

Can you help him find it?

Faith never goes home with an empty basket. When we think of what we deserve - then of what we have, we should be thankful to God.

Learning is wealth to the poor, an honor to the rich, aid to the young, and comfort to the aged.

Bible Animal Puzzle

-by Emil Johnson

Can You guess which Bible animal left this track? David killed one with his sling as he protected his sheep.

1 Sam. 17:34-37

To find out the animal's name, color in the dotted sections of the puzzle and hold it before a mirror. Read answer in the reflection.

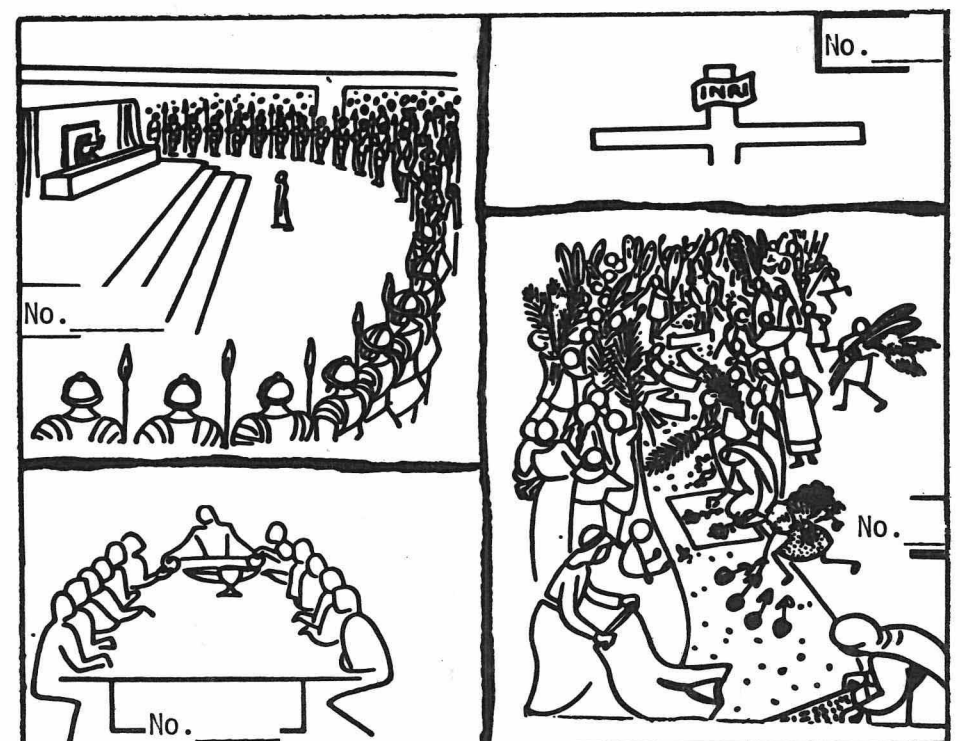


Getting Ready for Lent

Lent is a special time of the year for God's children. They read about Jesus. They learn how He died to save everyone. It is a time for God's children to know Jesus as their Friend. It is a time to know more about Jesus' love. It is a time for God's children to show their thanks to Jesus.

Something to Do

Can you find the picture that tells what Jesus did FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH?



GEMS OF WISDOM * * * * *

It isn't how high in life you go that counts but how you got there. * * * * *

Answers

Down: 1. Jesus 2. Noah 3. Galilee 5. Peter 6. Nets Across: 1. Jonah 4. Sea 5. Paul 7. Red 8. Solomon

