



IN THE LIGHT
OF
JESUS' LOVE



SURRENDER
ministries

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In the Light of Jesus' Love

Jesus' love for you defined

"In the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians the apostle Paul defines true Christlike love."
SDA Bible Commentary Volume 7A p.1091

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: . . ." *I Corinthians 13:4-8*

Webster's dictionary defines charity as: The good affection, love, or tenderness which men should feel toward their fellows, and which should induce them to do good to and think favorably of others; benevolence; liberality in giving and in thinking or judging; lenient.

A look at how Jesus' love for us fulfills the description of love in I Corinthians 13

Love that is patient - charity suffereth long

- Jesus' love bears with painful or distressing effects for a long time.
- Jesus' love continues for us even though it is unappreciated and rejected.

". . . I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." *Jeremiah 31:3*

"We love him, because he first loved us." *I John 4:19*

Love that is kind - and is kind

- Jesus' love for us proceeds from a tender, sensitive heart.

"The sweetness of divine love flows from His very presence as the fragrance from a flower."
Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing p.6

Love that is not envious - charity envieth not

- Jesus' love desires us to have success in spite of who we are.
- Jesus is not envious of other love relationships with His Father.

Jesus has an infinite amount of love for His Father and for us. Jesus wants us to love His Father as He loves His Father.

"I rejoice in the bright prospects of the future, and so may you. Be cheerful, and praise the Lord for His loving-kindness. That which you cannot understand, commit to Him. He loves you and pities your every weakness. He 'hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.' It would not satisfy the heart of the Infinite One to give those who love His Son a lesser blessing than He gives His Son." *Testimonies to Ministers p.518*

Love that doesn't brag - charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up

- Jesus doesn't boast about His love in relation to our feeble love.

Love that is proper - doth not behave itself unseemly

- Jesus' love is appropriate for each occasion - always pure and modest.

Love that is unselfish - seeketh not her own

- Jesus' love is free of selfish gain and is focused on doing good for others to promote their happiness.

Love that isn't easily provoked - is not easily provoked

- Jesus' intense love for us prevents Him from being easily provoked, or irritated, by our actions, words, or thoughts that are contrary to His character and will.

"However wretched may be the specimens of humanity that men spurn and turn aside from, they are not too low, too wretched, for the notice and love of God. Christ longs to have care-worn, weary, oppressed human beings come to Him. He longs to give them the light and joy and peace that are to be found nowhere else. The veriest sinners are the objects of His deep, earnest pity and love. He sends His Holy Spirit to yearn over them with tenderness, seeking to draw them to Himself." *Christ's Object Lessons p.226*

Love that focuses on the good - thinketh no evil

- Jesus' love for us enables Him to notice and focus on our Christlike traits of character and prevents Him from being eager to find our faults.

"The love of Jesus covers a multitude of sins. His grace never leads to the exposing of another's wrongs, unless it is a positive necessity." *Counsels to Teachers p.267*

Love that rejoices about truth - rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth

- Jesus' love enables Him to rejoice with His people when truth is present in their lives and ministry even though they are sinners.

Love that bears all things - beareth all things

- Jesus' love enables Him to take on the burdens that are rightfully ours and bear them for us.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." *Matthew 11:28*

Love that believes all things - believeth all things

- Jesus has a perfect love for His Father that motivates Him to believe all things His Father tells Him, even though His immediate circumstances while on earth caused this belief to be severely tested.

Love that is hopeful - hopeth all things

- Jesus has a love for us that enables Him to have confidence in our reunion with Him, even when we turn away from Him as sinners. He has a love that never gives up on us during our lifetime.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." *Romans 5:8*

". . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." *John 14:3*

"With untold love our God has loved us, and our love awakens toward Him as we comprehend something of the length and breadth and depth and height of this love that passeth knowledge. By the revelation of the attractive loveliness of Christ, by the knowledge of His love expressed to us while we were yet sinners, the stubborn heart is melted and subdued, and the sinner is transformed and becomes a child of heaven. God does not employ compulsory measures; love is the agent which He uses to expel sin from the heart. By it He changes pride into humility, and enmity and unbelief into love and faith." *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p.76-77*

Love that endures all things - endureth all things

- Jesus' love and care for us is so strong that it enables Him to endure all hardships and sufferings so that we may be with Him forever in His home.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." *Hebrews 12:2*

"He was eternally rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. He was clothed with light and glory, and was surrounded with hosts of heavenly angels, waiting to execute his commands. Yet he put on our nature, and came to sojourn among sinful mortals. Here is love that no language can express. It passes knowledge. Great is the mystery of godliness. Our souls should be enlivened, elevated, and enraptured with the theme of the love of the Father and the Son to man. The followers of Christ should here learn to reflect in some degree that mysterious love preparatory to joining all the redeemed in ascribing

'Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.' " *Testimonies to the Church, volume 2, p.215*

Love that never fails - charity never faileth

- Jesus' love for us never fails under any circumstance. This was powerfully demonstrated by His death for us on the cross in our place and in our behalf.

Examining various spiritual subjects in the light of Jesus love

Calvary

"He who beholds the Saviour's matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character. He will go forth to be a light to the world, to reflect in some degree this mysterious love. The more we contemplate the cross of Christ, the more fully shall we adopt the language of the apostle when he said, 'God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.'" *Gospel Workers p.29*

"Christ's self-sacrificing love is revealed upon the cross. That man might be saved, He gave all that He had, and then gave Himself. The cross of Christ appeals to the benevolence of every follower of the blessed Saviour. The principle there illustrated is to give, give. This, carried out in actual benevolence and good works, is the true fruit of the Christian life." *Testimonies to the Church, volume 9, p.254*

"Christ's believing people are to perpetuate His love. This love is to draw them together around the cross. It is to divest them of all selfishness, and bind them to God and to one another.

Meet around the cross of Calvary in self-sacrifice and self-denial. God will bless you as you do your best. As you approach the throne of grace, as you find yourself bound to this throne by the golden chain let down from heaven to earth, to draw men from the pit of sin, your heart will go out in love for your brethren and sisters who are without God and without hope in the world." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 9, p.256*

Good Works

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." *Matthew 5:16*

Jesus has given us a specific way to personally examine our faith in Him. He warns us that it is possible to do "good works" without having love for Him in our hearts and without having a saving relationship with Him. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not

prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:22,23. The people represented by these verses did not have a love relationship with Jesus and "worked iniquity" because they did not keep His commands to love Him with all their heart, and with all their soul, and with all their mind and love their neighbor as themselves (see Matthew 22:37-39).

Our good works are "good" only as they reflect the love of Jesus to others and are then a reflection of our belief, trust, and faith in Jesus. This is a personal matter. We are not to judge others works but should examine our own works in the light of Jesus love to discern if we truly believe, trust, and have faith in Jesus. Jesus counsels us in Revelation 3:18 to buy of Him gold (in this context gold refers to faith & love - see SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7 p.965) tried in the fire. We cannot buy this with money, but we can exchange our selfishness for His love.

". . . no man can impart that which he himself has not received. In the work of God, humanity can originate nothing. No man can by his own effort make himself a light bearer for God. It was the golden oil emptied by the heavenly messengers into the golden tubes, to be conducted from the golden bowl into the lamps of the sanctuary, that produced a continuous bright and shining light. It is the love of God continually transferred to man that enables him to impart light. Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith the golden oil of love flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God." *Christ's Object Lessons* p.418-419

"Wherever there is union with Christ there is love. Whatever other fruits we may bear, if love be missing, they profit nothing. Love to God and our neighbor is the very essence of our religion. No one can love Christ and not love His children. When we are united to Christ, we have the mind of Christ. Purity and love shine forth in the character, meekness and truth control the life. The very expression of the countenance is changed. Christ abiding in the soul exerts a transforming power, and the outward aspect bears witness to the peace and joy that reign within. We drink in the love of Christ, as the branch draws nourishment from the vine. If we are grafted in Christ, if fiber by fiber we have been united with the Living Vine, we shall give evidence of the fact by bearing rich clusters of living fruit. If we are connected with the Light, we shall be channels of light, and in our words and works we shall reflect light to the world. Those who are truly Christians are bound with the chain of love which links earth to heaven, which binds finite man to the infinite God. The light that shines in the face of Jesus Christ shines in the hearts of His followers, to the glory of God." *1 Selected Messages* p.337-338

"The powers of darkness stand a poor chance against believers who love one another as Christ has loved them, who refuse to create alienation and strife, who stand together, who are kind, courteous, and tender-hearted, cherishing the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. We

must have the Spirit of Christ, or we are none of His." *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7A p.1141*

" 'By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.' The more closely we resemble our Saviour in character, the greater will be our love toward those for whom he died. Christians who manifest a spirit of unselfish love for one another are bearing a testimony for Christ which unbelievers can neither gainsay nor resist. It is impossible to estimate the power of such an example. Nothing will so successfully defeat the devices of Satan and his emissaries, nothing will so build up the Redeemer's kingdom, as will the love of Christ manifested by the members of the church." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5, p.167-168*

"God's law is the law of love. He has surrounded you with beauty to teach you that you are not placed on earth merely to delve for self, to dig and build, to toil and spin, but to make life bright and joyous and beautiful with the love of Christ - like the flowers, to gladden other lives by the ministry of love." *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing p.97*

The Ministry of Ellen White

"I was unable to sleep much last night, not because of sorrow but because my heart was welling up to God with joy and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ for His great goodness and loving-kindness to the children of men and His great love manifested to me." *Ellen White manuscript 87, 1893, p.9*

The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

"After the sufferings of Christ, after His crucifixion and resurrection and proclamation over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, 'I am the resurrection and the life,' after His words to the five hundred who assembled to see Him in Galilee, and after His ascension to heaven, the disciples had some idea of what the love of God comprehended, and of the love they were to exercise one toward another. When the Holy Spirit rested on them on the day of Pentecost, that love was revealed." *SDA Bible Commentary Volume 7A p.1141*

Healing

"The love which Christ diffuses through the whole being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part -- the brain, the heart, the nerves -- it touches with healing. By it the highest energies of the being are roused to activity. It frees the soul from the guilt and sorrow, the anxiety and care,

that crush the life forces. With it come serenity and composure. It implants in the soul, joy that nothing earthly can destroy, -- joy in the Holy Spirit, -- healthgiving, life-giving joy.

Our Saviour's words, 'Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28), are a prescription for the healing of physical, mental, and spiritual ills. Though men have brought suffering upon themselves by their own wrongdoing, He regards them with pity. In Him they may find help. He will do great things for those who trust in Him." *The Ministry of Healing* p.115

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:" *Isaiah* 26:3,4

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: . . ." *Proverbs* 17:22

". . . the joy of the LORD is your strength." *Nehemiah* 8:10

Our Daily Focus

"The heart that has once tasted the love of Christ, cries out continually for a deeper draft, and as you impart you will receive in richer and more abundant measure. Every revelation of God to the soul increases the capacity to know and to love. The continual cry of the heart is, 'More of Thee,' and ever the Spirit's answer is, 'Much more.' Romans 5:9, 10. For our God delights to do 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.' Ephesians 3:20." *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* p.20-21