



WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2023 Issue No. 15
April 16, 2023

Sunday April 16, 2023

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Message: The Family of God # 13

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Text: John 13:34-35

Over the 58 years in the ministry I have come across 1000's of quotes and saying from many, many sources. I have them in sermons, the Weekly sermon cover letter, church bulletins and for my own edification. Here are **SIXTEEN** of those saying I trust will be a blessing to you.

1. The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow.
2. If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, you have more business on hand than God ever intended you should have. – **D.L. Moody**
3. As you walk through your house, how many things can be found that would give evidence to a stranger that it is a Christian home?
4. God often digs the wells of joy with the spade of sorrow.
5. Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.
6. Witnessing is the whole work of the whole church for the whole of the age. **A. T. Pierson**
7. Many times I have found that when the sermon, and even the text, has been forgotten, some story has fastened itself in a hearer's mind and has borne fruit. Illustrations are like windows to let light in upon a subject. **D.L. Moody**
8. My faith rests not upon what I am or shall be or feel or know, but in what Christ is, in what He has done and in what He is now doing for me. **Charles Spurgeon**
9. No preacher should dare enter the pulpit to 'rightly divide the Word of truth who has not followed Paul's instructions: "**Study to shew thyself approved unto God**" (II Timothy 2:15). **Raymond W. Barber**
10. The best prayers have often more groans than words. **John Bunyan**
11. The heart of the Gospel is redemption, and the essence of redemption is the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ.... They who preach not atonement, whatever else they declare, have missed the soul and substance of the divine message. **C. H. Spurgeon**
12. It is a burning, irrefutable fact that the glowing, growing churches are the going churches which believe in and practice evangelism. **Hyman Appelman**
13. When people play fast and loose with the eternal principles of righteousness and forget God, then the nation, the church, the family, and the individual go the way of defeat and death. **George W. Truett**
14. The world does not understand theology or dogma, but it understands love and sympathy.

15. Our children are always watching us, from the first moment they open their eyes at birth to the last day we close our eyes in death. It's never too late to pray, to influence, and to set an example. Let's start today, serving Him in full view of all those we're allowed to influence.

16. Our real value is not in our accomplishments, but in our fellowship with Him.

In His Amazing Grace
Pastor David Miklas

“How to Love One Another in the Family of God” (Part I)

INTRODUCTION: Foundational to all meaningful Christian action is **LOVE**. It is the "**more excellent way**" of I Corinthians 12:31. The exhortation to "**love one another**" appears more frequently than all other "**one another**" concepts. Of the **fifty-eight** references where the term "**ALLELON**" is used, **sixteen** times we are told to "**LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**" Let me give you several examples:

In John 13:34-35, Jesus said, "**A new commandment I give unto you, that ye LOVE ONE ANOTHER; as I have loved you, that ye also LOVE ONE ANOTHER. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER.**"

In Romans 13:8, Paul instructed us, "**owe no man anything, but to LOVE ONE ANOTHER: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.**"

In I Peter 1:22 we read, "**...seeing that ye LOVE ONE ANOTHER with a pure heart fervently.**"

In I John 3:11, we read, "**For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**"

What thrilled the Apostle Paul about a growing, maturing, spiritual church for which he thanked God, was their love, love for one another. When he analyzed a church, the "**bottom line**" was always "**love.**"

For example: Paul challenged the church at Ephesus in Ephesians 5:1-2, "**Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; (2) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.**"

For example: Paul wrote to the church at Philippi in Philippians 1:9-11, "**For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. (9) And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; (10) That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; (11) Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.**"

For example: Paul wrote to the church at Colossae in Colossians 1:3-5, "**We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, (4) Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, (5) For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;...**"

For example: Paul wrote to the church of the Thessalonians in I Thessalonians 1:2-3, "**We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; (3) Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;..**"

Reading these verses over and over again, our desire ought to make us cry out "**Dear God let me love more.**" The only way this unsaved world is going to see Jesus, is to see our love for others.

The Apostle John gave to us a marvelous passage on love in I John 4:7-16,

“Beloved, let us love one another: for 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. (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. (13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. (14) And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. (15) Whosoever shall

confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. (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."

Please take note of the description of God given in verses 8 and 16, "**GOD IS LOVE.**"

Please take note of the most profound description of our Christian character in verses 7, 11-12, in the phrase "**love one another.**"

The word "**OUGHT**" in verse 11 means "I have a **MORAL OBLIGATION** to **LOVE** you." God requires His people to "**LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**" Since this is true, then the question we need to ask is, "What is love?"

WHAT IS LOVE? You pose this question to our secular society, and you may get a warped answer. To many of them:

Love is **associated with sex.**

Love is **a desire to be with someone who satisfies one of our physical senses.**

Love is **a desire to be around someone who is handsome or pretty.**

Love is **being with someone who likes us, whose personality makes us feel good.**

WHAT IS LOVE? Notice how God expressed love in verses 9-10, "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. The Greek word for **LOVE** which we will see in all the passages in this message is "**AGAPO.**" This is the love of God.

"**AGAPO**" love is a love **without emotion.**

"**AGAPO**" love is a love that is **DELIBERATE.**

"**AGAPO**" love is not a feeling; it is **AN ACT OF THE WILL.**

"**AGAPO**" love is a love that **loves regardless of the attraction to the object.**

"**AGAPO**" love is a love that's **PERSISTENT, PASSIONATE, IMPARTIAL, INEXHAUSTIBLE, UNCONDITIONAL** and **EVERLASTING.**

This love, God's love, is for you and me. One of my favorite hymns "My Savior's Love" expresses this love,

I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me,
A sinner condemned unclean.

He took my sin and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered, and died alone.

How marvelous! how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! how wonderful
Is my Saviour's love for me!

WHAT IS LOVE? Here are some quotes I have collected over the years.

Love is the willingness and desire to put the welfare of others above our own. It leaves no place for pride, vanity, arrogance, self-seeking or self-glory.

The love of God planted in the believers heart becomes the **DOORWAY** to service. When one **TRULY** loves, He asks "**HOW MUCH CAN I DO?**" rather than "**HOW MUCH MUST I DO?**"

Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay; love is not love till you give it away.

In Romans 5:8 we read, "**But God commendeth His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**" From that verse someone said **REAL LOVE** is spelled **S-A-C-R-I-F-I-**

C-E.

Real love is visible compassion in my heart to meet another's needs. Real love is putting skin over your Christianity.

When the Christian only talks of love, he can be easily turned aside. When Christians **DEMONSTRATE LOVE**, the message of the gospel becomes **IRRESISTIBLE**.

Someone said the tragedy of our Christianity is that, "**We have just enough religion to make us HATE, but not enough to make us LOVE one another.**"

Another said, "**We have found it easier to be an ACTIVE Christian than to be a LOVING Christian.**"

In Matthew 22:34-40, when Jesus was asked "which is the greatest commandment" to which He replied, "... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Here our Lord, in answer to the question: "Which is the greatest commandment?" replies by summarizing the moral law, which is what we know as the 10 commandments in two parts.

The first **FOUR** of the commandments are summarized in **verse 37**, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

The last **SIX** of the commandments are summarized in **verse 39**, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Question: Does your love mean BUSINESS? A unique sign appeared in a Jewelry store that read:

A box of candy means friendship.

A bunch of flowers means love.

But a diamond means business.

Question: Does your love mean business? Do you love God with all your heart and soul and mind? Ok, if you say you do, then let's transfer that **MESSAGE INTO ACTION**. Remember Jesus said to this lawyer, **LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF**.

Question: What then does it mean to LOVE THY NEIGHBOR? In thinking through this question, let us focus on 4 areas that demonstrate our love for our neighbor.

NUMBER 1: I love my neighbor by showing my love for others. In John 13:34-35 Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Here we discover Christ's unique plan for Non-Christians to come to know His love. It is through Christians' proper relationship with one another. If **I LOVE MY BROTHER AND SISTER IN CHRIST** when in the presence of an unbeliever, God will become visible to the unbeliever. It is not our belief, but our love for one another that communicates to the unsaved world.

Having a right Theology is no substitute for love. Doing religious works is no substitute for love.

Your unsaved neighbors, friends and relatives:

Do not care about your Confession of Faith.

Do not care how much you know about the Bible.

Do not care how much time you spend in church.

Do not care how much time you spend in prayer.

But they do observe, and they do care how you treat others in the family of God.

**The unsaved neighbor, relative or co-worker wants to see your Christianity with flesh on it.
The unsaved neighbor, relative or co-worker wants to see if you are for REAL.
The unsaved world is looking for genuine Christianity.**

What is love? It is a Christian whose talk is the same as his walk. Daily he speaks the gospel in love and he lives the truth in "shoe leather," in his love for one another.

NUMBER 2: I love my neighbor, by not sinning against him. In Romans 13:8-10 we read,

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (9) For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (10) Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

I have a spiritual debt to pay and that debt is to love one another by not violating anyone's **RIGHTS.**

My love for my neighbor does not **WORK EVIL AGAINST HIM.**
My love for my neighbor **DOES NOT VIOLATE HIS FREEDOM.**

You will notice in verse 9, Paul lists the last five of the Ten Commandments.

I love my neighbor by not violating His wife or husband. **Do not commit adultery.**
I love my neighbor by not violating his life. **Do not commit murder.**
I love my neighbor by not violating his property. **Do not steal.**
I love my neighbor by not lying about him. **Do not bear false witness.**
I love my neighbor by not desiring what belongs to him. **Do not covet.**

Paul sums it up in verse 10 "**LOVE WORKETH NO ILL to my neighbor.**"

NUMBER 3: I love my neighbor, even if he is my enemy. Jesus said to us in Matthew 5:43-44,

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (44) But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;...”

These are powerful instructions we are to follow as we,

Bless them that curse you; that is say good things about them.
Do good to them that hate you; that is repay their unkindness with kindness.
Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you. It is hard to hate someone while praying for them.

The Apostle Paul applies this thought in Romans 12:17-21. In reading verses 17-18, **“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. (18) If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”** These verses should remind us of Joseph in the Old Testament.

His brothers **hated** him, **persecuted** him, **ridiculed** him, and **sold** him **into slavery**, and yet Joseph **forgave** them, **provided** for them and **protected** them.

Then in verses 19-21 we read, **“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (20) Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.(21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

Those who take revenge get nowhere. When God avenges a wrong, He does so with **PERFECT JUSTICE**. Never is the spirit of retaliation a part of Christianity. May I remind you when you and I were enemies of God, **HE STILL LOVED US**, and sent Christ to die for us. In Romans 5, verse 8, we read, “**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**” And in verse 10 we read, “**For if, when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**”

You will recall Peter in Matthew 18:21-22, asked the Lord: “**Lord how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Till seven times?**” Jesus’ answer to Peter was, “**I say not unto thee, until seven times, but until seventy times seven.**” When Peter has forgiven his brother **SEVEN times he has not even begun to discharge his debt of love**. He must forgive and forgive and forgive, realizing such is the **LOVE OF GOD** even to our enemies.

NUMBER 4: I love my neighbor by covering his multitude of sins. In James 5:19-20 we read,

“**Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; (20) Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.**”

One of the greatest problems I see among Christians is a lack of love toward another Christian who backslides or falls into sin. Instead of helping a wounded Christian:

We keep on **kicking while they are down.**

We keep on **talking about them behind their back.**

We keep on **criticizing them over and over again to anyone who will listen to us.**

We continually keep **them at arm’s length.**

Someone said “**Let’s kick all the sinners out of church.**” To that another replied, “**Then may I ask who would be left?**” Need I remind you? James is talking about believers as he uses the word **BRETHREN** fourteen times in his book.

First: James warns us of a SUBTLE DANGER verse 19a, “**Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth...**” Notice the word “**IF.**” James uses this as a warning. He knows we are all prone to **SIN**. Paul warns us in I Corinthians 10:12 “**Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he falls.**” Listen, the best Christian listening to this message could fall into deep, deep sin tomorrow. **NOTHING SURPRISES ME.** I know it can happen, because I have seen it happen!

James goes on to say, “**If any man ERR...**” The word “**ERR**” means to “**slip away, to wander, to go astray, to backslide.**” James is talking about someone who has wandered from God. It is someone who has fallen into sin. James warns us that there is a subtle danger; it could happen to **YOU**. Be careful, you always backslide in **HEART** before you backslide in **ACTION**.

Second: James challenges us to a SUBLIME DUTY in verses 19b-20, “**...and one convert him; (20) Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.**”

Question: “**What is our primary duty to those in the faith who have sinned?**”

Answer: “**Our primary duty as a Christian is to bring that person back to full spiritual health.**”

In these verses James tells us we have a **three-fold duty** to a sinning fellow Christian.

A. We are to convert the sinner. Here the idea is to restore this sinner to the faith.

B. We save the sinner from death. This does not refer to physical death, nor does it refer to spiritual death. I believe the phrase "**saved from death**" has to do with removing an atmosphere of death. Remember a sinning Christian is a very **miserable** Christian.

He is living a life that is **empty, wasted**, and submerged in an atmosphere of **DESPAIR, GUILT, and DEPRESSION**. Therefore when we help to restore him, and convert him from the error of his ways, we are bringing him out of a **LIVING DEATH**.

C. We hide a multitude of sins. Interestingly this phrase is used in several other passages of Scripture.

In I Peter 4:8 we read "... **For love shall cover a multitude of sins.**"

In Proverbs 10:12 we read, "**Hatred stirreth up strifes, but love covers all sin.**"

In Proverbs 17:9 we read, "**He that covereth a transgression seeketh love, but he that repeateth a matter separateth friends.**"

If I am going to love my neighbor as myself, if I am going to demonstrate love for the brethren to the outside world, then I must help bring those in the faith who have slipped into sin out of a living death back to spiritual health by covering their sins. What does this mean?

LOVE HELPS the one who has sinned to face those sins he confesses to God. It says in I John 1:9, "**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**"

LOVE FORGIVES the one who has sinned as we read in Ephesians 4:32, "**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**"

LOVE RESTORES the one who has slipped into sin as we are instructed to do in Galatians 6:1, "**Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.**"

It has been well said,

Love does not broadcast, it HIDES.

Love does not repeat, it COVERS.

Love does not hold against, it FORGIVES and FORGETS.

John Newton the composer of "Amazing Grace" wrote,

"The longer I live, the more I see of the vanity and the sinfulness of our unchristian disputes; they eat up the very vitals of religion. I grieve to think of how often I have lost my time and my temper in that way, in presuming to regulate the vineyards of others, when I have neglected my own... When our dear Lord questioned Peter, after his fall and recovery, He said not, 'Art thou wise, learned and eloquent?' Nay, He said not, 'Art thou clear and sound, and orthodox?' This only He said, 'Lovest thou me?' An answer to this was sufficient then; why not now?"

My friends, we cannot represent Christ, the loving Savior, if we ourselves are lacking in love. "**MINISTRY TAKES PLACE WHEN DIVINE RESOURCES MEET HUMAN NEEDS THROUGH LOVING CHANNELS TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**"

Again from the **LOVE CHAPTER** found in I Corinthians 13:8 we read "**LOVE NEVER FAILETH.**" This quality is to characterize every child of God in **EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE**, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The word "**FAILETH**" can be applied in a number of different ways.

Love never falls to the ground.

Love never decays.

Love never loses its strength.

Love is inexhaustible.

Love never leaves its place.
Love is immovable.
Love will outlast everything.

Question: How much do you love? Does your love mean business? Does your love have flesh on it? **IF IT DOES, THEN FIND SOMEONE TO LOVE AND PRACTICE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**“Others Lord, Yes others,
let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others
that I may live like Thee.”**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon, **“How to Love One Another in the Family of God” (Part 1.)** right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you. Why not, ask God to provide you someone you can practice loving in Christ this coming week?

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”**
Romans 10:13, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **“I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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