

## THE BIBLE VIEW

**In This Issue:**

[Love](#)

[Love the Brethern](#)

[Where Has the Love Gone?](#)

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Theme: Love

### Love

*Bill Brinkworth*

*“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 ¶ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” I Corinthians 13:4-8*

Paul, the Apostle, knew how essential it was to love others. The preacher was not talking about the lustful, selfish emotion that many experience. He was addressing a love that only a Christian can truly understand and have. The indwelling Spirit of God can make it possible for one to love others in a way that is impossible without God’s help.

Charity, or love, can endure so many things and allow a spiritual person to please God. The world may think they understand love, but their idea is often far from what God says genuine love is.

Here is what God says genuine love is (I Corinthians 13:4-8):

- Love puts up with a lot.
- Love is kind.
- Love does not get envious.
- Love is not prideful.
- Love allows one to behave properly.
- Love will not make one self-centered.
- Love keeps one from getting mad so quickly.
- Love does not think the worst of someone so readily.
- Love does not like one to be in sin.
- Love desires the truth.
- Love gives multiple chances to a person.
- Love drives one to believe another.
- Love encourages one to be hopeful in many situations.
- Love gives others a lot of chances.

The love a Christian can have for others is longer lasting and will allow a Christian to see and handle life very differently. Seeing people and this world through the eyes of love will change one's life completely.

## Love the Brethren

*Bill Brinkworth*

*“A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1*

One of the hardest things in life is to get along with others. We are all different, and we will have our own opinions. We will have disagreements and will disapprove of what others do or say.

If one is a Christian, however, he should get along with others, especially other believers. After one is born-again into the family of God, one has an obligation and is commanded to get along with fellow Christians.

There is much in God’s Word about getting along with other Christians. Here is some of what the Bible teaches about having relationships with other believers:

- We are commanded not only to get along with other Christians, but we are to love them.

*“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34*

*“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” John 15:12*

*“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Gal. 5:14*

Also: John 15:17, Rom. 13:8., Gal. 5:14, I Thes. 3:12, I Thes. 4:9, Heb. 13:1, I Peter 1:22, 2:17, I John 3:11, 23, I John 4:7, 11-12.

- Christians should desire to fellowship with those of similar beliefs.  
*“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;” Rom. 12:10*
- There will be differences and disagreements among believers, but we must strive to get along with others.  
*“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;” Eph. 4:2*  
*“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” I Peter 5:5*
- Ultimately, all Christians should be like-minded in the things of God. Our beliefs should unify us.  
*“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”*  
*Philippians 2:2*  
*“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:” I Pet. 3:8*
- Not only should we love our Christian brothers and sisters, but we should strive to help and meet their needs.  
*“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” Gal. 5:13*  
*“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” Heb. 10:24*
- Christians are your brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for them as you would your biological family members.

*“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*

- Our getting along with other believers is a good testimony to others watching our lives. Likewise, those that are at odds with other members of the family of God are poor testimonies. Disunity among the brethren is observed, and is often why others no longer go to church or associate with believers.

*“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35*

It is not always easy to get along with others, and that includes Christians. However, some of the worst damage done to Christianity is the feuding, fussing, and fuming done among believers. The world sees the disunity, and it becomes a black-eye for the cause of Christ.

It takes Christian maturity and often much humbleness, but for Christ’s sake and His cause, we must try to love our fellow believers. It can be most “pleasant” when we get along with Christian family members.

**“Love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service and from solitude to kinship with all mankind.”** — *Author Unknown*

## Where Has the Love Gone?

*Bill Brinkworth*

When a couple falls in love, there is usually a lot of romance. They go out to dinner. He gives her flowers. She brags about him to her friends. He cannot wait to see her after work.

The romance continues. They get married. The dates are even better. They go everywhere together, and then a transformation slowly causes changes. One has to stay at work a little longer and misses the planned Friday night date. Money is spent before it is received, so the flowers are out of the question for one week, and then the next.

Marriage can be difficult. Instead of bragging about her husband to her friends, she now finds herself complaining about his faults. Slowly, over time, the relationship is no longer what it once was. Is the love still there? Many times, there still is love, it just got crowded out by things that have been given a higher priority than they should have.

Often a relationship between a person and the Lord deteriorates similarly. At first, Christians are so excited about being saved and forgiven of all their sins. They attend church every time the doors are open: Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. Every day they start with prayer time and read their Bibles faithfully. They even try to tell others about the Lord and how they too can be saved from a burning Hell.

However, sometimes a transformation in their love life with the Lord slowly occurs. At the time, their reason for not having time in the morning for prayer and Bible reading seemed legitimate. Perhaps, there was also a good reason why they could not attend church on Sunday. Maybe even sickness caused them to stay home from church on Sunday.

Perhaps the reason for stopping spiritual things was too much familiarity. When doing something repetitively, sometimes a person loses interest in doing them. Soon, however, the reasons change to, “I have too many things to do today to go to church.” To cover up from backsliding away from the Lord, other reasons surface like, “I don’t get anything out of reading my Bible every time, so why do it?”, or “No one talks to me at church, so why go?”

No matter how it happens, too many find themselves further away from God than they ever would have imagined they would be. They find themselves without the enthusiasm, excitement, and love for the Lord they once had. Are they out of love with their Saviour?

Many times they are not out of love with their Saviour. Often it is because too many things got a higher priority than they deserved. They find themselves in the same position that the early church of Ephesus found itself when John wrote, “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love (Revelation 2:4). ” Their love for God had not moved at all; it was where they

had left it. They just needed to go back where they had left it and pick up where they left off.

Here are some things that can be done to help one get back the love for Christ they once had:

- Admit to God what you have done wrong and ask Him to forgive you. He knows where you went amiss. He desires that you humble yourself and confess what you did wrong.

A humbled heart often keeps one from returning to his old mistakes. The principle of II Chronicles 7:14, although promised to Israel, can also be applied to one's spiritual relationship with the Lord, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

- Go back to doing what God has already convicted you about. If He has tugged at your heartstrings to restart your daily prayer life, then that would be a good place to start. If you are convicted about not going to church, drop everything to be there the next time its doors are open.
- Try to go back spiritually to the place you were when God was important to you. Do now what you did then.
- If you were closest to Him when you lived by faith, do the same now. "Well, it's not that easy to do that now. I have responsibilities and a job. I have bills to pay," some justify.

“Are you happy with where you are spiritually now?”

“Well, no.”

“Well, maybe you need to go back to how you once were. God may never have wanted you to get in the spiritual place you are now, anyway. It may have been your decision and not His will. Look where not following His directions got you.”

- Obey what He shows you to do now. If a message from the pulpit stirs you to change something, change it! (Of course, if you miss church, you’ll miss what God had for you that day!) If a scripture convicts you of a sin, confess it and forsake it. If a heart-tugging compels you to do something for the Lord, do it!

Do all you did before, and more, when you had “your first love” with the Lord. He has not gone anywhere. He is still in the same place you left Him. Revitalize your relationship with the Lord. He will forgive you, and you can start all over again — this time better!

*“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” Deuteronomy 6:5* Also: Mark 12:30, I John 4:19

**“Self-love seeks to use God. True love seeks to please God!”** — *Author Unknown*