

3 Godly love that knows no reservations is given unconditionally without expecting anything in return.

**5. The Spirit instructs in Prov: 15:1a; 4a & 25:11**

- 1 "A soft answer turns away wrath: . . . . ."
- 2 "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: . . . ."
- 3 "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

The behavioral attitude of a Christian toward other people reveals Christ's Holy Spirit working in him. This is what a Christian chooses to do, for "faith without works is dead, but through works faith is made perfect. By works a man is justified and not by faith only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (Jms: 2:20, 22, 24 and 26).

May God grant us all the ability to become successful representatives of His word for He gave us the commission to go and teach all nations to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you (Mat: 28-19-20).

The Brotherhood in Jesus Christ Bible Study Course is an extension program of the Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day by Siegfried Maywald  
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*Brotherhood  
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# 87

## How Love serves others

Johan Wolfgang von Goethe wrote  
“We are shaped and fashioned by what, we love.”  
Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Tim. 6:10:  
“The love of money is the root of all evil.”

Both of these statements are very true. We can see in our society today how the love of money, the greed and covetousness in people can ruin business partnerships, friendships, creates marriage problems, entices lies and causes theft. This greed for money warps the minds of people and causes them to fall in its trap and thereby become unhappy, destructive to others and in the end even unhealthy. It destroys relationships to others even leads to murder, just to be able to pay for their next fix. The end result is addiction, sickness and unhappiness, which in turn leads to physical illness. Their every waking hour is consumed by thoughts of how to make more money and exploit every opportunity to fulfil their purpose. The feelings toward friendships and co-workers alike become insignificant and are pushed aside. Moral values, etiquette and other principals amongst normal human relations are completely ignored in their search for gain, for control and power. Only the word Hellenistic can describe this egocentric behavior of selfish love. Many people who have all the money indulge in pleasure only. Those are "escapists" that seek some kind of fulfillment and peace of mind in anything that momentarily fancies their physical desires, but unfortunately find neither with this type of egocentric behavior. This is selfish love.

- 1 Only true love is the desire to make others happy.
- 2 True love is a desire to give without expecting anything in return.
- 3 True love, the concern for the welfare of others,

2. The comforts it brings is the forgiveness of sins
3. It's end result brings peace to the soul

### **Love is the fruit of the Spirit** Galatians 5:22-23

#### **1. The Spirit is the author**

- a. The Spirit brought life at creation (Gen. 1:1-2)
- b. The Spirit now enables physical life via transformation. He reproves the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment unto salvation (Jn. 16:8)
- c. The Spirit reveals the work of Christ in our hearts (Jn: 16:14-15)
- d. The Spirit leads us unto wisdom and
- e. understanding of the word of God

#### **2. The Spirit builds a character**

- a. it is the nature of God that is revealed in us (Jn. 4:8)
- b. it is 'God dwelling in us' (1Jn. 4:16)

#### **3. The Spirit works within believers**

- a. The fruit is the evidence (1Jn. 4:19)
- b. The fruit is proof of healthy condition (2 Cor. 5:14)
- c. True love forgets as well as forgives
- d. It hides past failures and revolts
- e. Provides hospitality without grudging (Prv. 10:10-12)
- f. Provides talents and gifts according to the will of God
- g. And places the desire to minister to others

#### **4. The Spirit helps to differentiate**

- 1 The love of the world
- 2 The love and care of only those that love us back (Mat: 5:46; Lk. 6:32)

4. She accepted this man although he was “bad”. Just like God who did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
5. She showed compassion (1 Peter 3:8-9).
6. She was willing to forgive the man.

Apostle Paul tells us in Eph. 4:1-2, 3:17:

"I therefore, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation where with ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love;" -- "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love."

God has chosen us to be His representatives on earth. Paul challenges us here to live up to our calling. This includes being gentle, humble, patient, peaceful and understanding. We should ask ourselves the question: How good an example in representation are we? Can people see Christ Spirit in us? Do our actions reveal our faith?

### Two other examples of love

- 1) Just like God’s love is manifested to us when He sent His only begotten Son into the world that we through Him might live (1Jn: 4:9-10).
- 2) The prodigal son’s father revealed instantaneous love (Lk: 15:20):
  - a. When he was yet far away “His father saw him”
  - b. He expressed sympathy - “and had compassion”
  - c. He was quick to help - he “ran,”
  - d. His love was selfless – he “fell on his neck”,
  - e. He was ready to forgive – “and kissed him.”

### Love delivers and saves

1. The nature of love saves from corruption

gives joy and a feeling of fulfillment.

An example we may find in a story where a Christian man traveling in a foreign country came in contact with a poor young but intelligent man who made his living by asking people to hire him or give him some money to buy some food. The Christian man had compassion with this young man and asked him what he would do if he really would find a job. My dream is to become a doctor so that I would be able to help the sick. The desire of this young man and his willingness to work for it caused the Christian man to take him along. He provided him with a home, a job and helped him to attain the proper education necessary to fulfil this young man’s dream to become a doctor. Now several years later this former young man became an excellent doctor known as Paul Martin. He now was able to find work anywhere, but his interest was not in large salaries or expensive homes, but to be together with his young wife who is a nurse. Together they arranged to open up a Medical clinic in the poor district where he grew up as a child. In all these years he never forgot how it felt and how he had lived there as a boy and than a compassionate person came and helped him to accomplish his dream.

So we see that the selfless love, the compassion and care which had grown within this Christian man revealed the fruit of God's Spirit working in him. Even Jesus said when making a feast, we should not only invite the rich and famous, for they may have many excuses, but we also should invite the poor and needy, the maimed and blind as seen in Luke 14:16-21. In many countries we see poor and handicapped people on the streets begging for food or clothing, while the rich live in total luxury and ignore the plight of those in need.

Just like mother Teresa's love labour amongst the homeless in Calcutta sparked a team of people to care for the sick and needy. Because of her success in her work, her energy, continued stamina and health a group of Harvard scientists decided to do a study on "the effects of love" and James MacKay, a member of the University team came to the conclusion that: "There is no doubt that giving love and care bolsters the immune system of the body and helps people to resist and or even overcome all kinds of sicknesses and diseases." He also found that selfless love and caring for others is directly linked to good health. Also, a sense of humor and lack of cynicism seems to affect the disease fighting capabilities. In other words Mr. MacKay believes that if you feel good about yourself and others, the feeling is transmitted to disease fighting lymphocytes in the blood and in turn strengthens them.

As Goethe said:

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love."

- a) To this we may include nature lovers, who seem completely obsessed with nature and themselves.
- b) Than we have animal lovers, who spend more time with their pets than with human beings, thinking it is more rewarding.
- c) Further on we find that many people love sports, cars, food and other pleasures in general as we already mentioned.
- d) We find people that like to aggravate, start fights or act in mischievous manners.
- e) Than we have people that love to study God's word and live according to His will.
- f) They love what God has done for them, His compassion extended toward His created beings. They in turn love to extend this compassion, care and love toward their fellow man.
- g) They love to be good stewards over God's crea-

but said nothing to the child's actions. But the prisoner was deep in thought, even when he arrived at the prison, he could think of nothing else, but the rose and the kind words of the little child. His hatred toward the world had some how melted away. The little girl through her action fulfilled the commandment.

God's word tells us in 1 John 4:21:

"He who loves God loves his brother also."

The rose and the kind words of this girl somehow had touched the heart of this man. The genuine loving attention of this little child changed this man's attitude. It was through the power of God's Holy Spirit, present in the child's action, that the heart of this man became changed. The little girl was not afraid of this "Bad-man." May God grant us all this power to genuinely love our neighbor as ourselves, so that we also may become a light as this girl did.

1 John 4:18 states:

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear." So we truly can say, love covers all sins (Prv. 10:12). The little girl's action instinctively showed that she fulfilled God's commandment.

1. God's love is lasting, that God was with her and that nobody could be against her and that, nobody could separate her from the love of God, whom she recognized and whose love she extended toward this "Bad-man" (1 John 4: 21)
2. She caused reconciliation and healing within this "Bad-man". It involved not, only emotions or words, but through her action of presenting the rose in sincerity from her heart it became effective according to God's Spirit. (Rom. 8:31, 35)
3. She was not afraid to say that she loved God, (Rom. 1:16)

God has chosen us to be His representatives on earth; Paul challenges us here to live up to our calling. This includes being gentle, humble, patient, peaceful and understanding. We should ask ourselves the question: How good an example in representation are we? Can people see Christ in us?

Here I may tell you a little story:

There was a man who was about eighty years old when he passed away in a prison some years ago. He apparently had been incarcerated for more than 30 years. His story, when it came to my ears, revealed a blessing. It really shows how love can be expressed and how it can cause a lasting result in shaping or reshaping others. The unusual aspect of this story was that this man for three decades had been a model prisoner. He even worked with the prison chaplain to help other prisoners. His conversion from a rebellious attitude full of hatred came about by a simple action of a little girl he had met. Years before while he as a prisoner was waiting on the platform for the train to transport him into prison, he drew the attention of a little girl. The girl which was standing not too far away with her mother, also waiting for the train to return home, was attracted to the man in the striped uniform next to a police man. She intensely looked at this man; then suddenly said:

“Who is this man in that striped uniform?

Why is he handcuffed to that policeman?

Why is his hair shaved off? The little girl asked:

Her mother replied this is a “Bad man”, don’t look at him.” But the little girl although told not even to look at this man, snatched the rose out of her mother’s lapel and ran to the criminal with the words: - “Mr. Bad-man”, maybe nobody loves you, but God loves you, and so do I.” - The convict looked surprised, but took the rose out of the girl’s hand. The mother looked on in astonishment,

tion, to care for the welfare of animals and nature itself.

The effects of love do abound,  
the Bible admonishes us in Mat. 22:37, 39:

"Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind." And "Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself."

### **Love can be defined in scripture as:**

1. **Eros** which refers to Physical love, desire, attraction, liking preferring etc.
  - a. This category includes nature lovers, who seem completely obsessed with nature and themselves.
  - b. Next are animal lovers, who spend more time with their pets than with human beings, thinking they are more rewarding.
  - c. Than we have those who love sports, cars, food or pleasures in general as already mentioned.
2. **Phileo** which refers to human correctness in a political, physical and moral sense.
  - a. This category includes the desires of people that are contrary to the scriptures.
  - b. Those who love sports, cars, food or other worldly pleasures in general as already mentioned
3. **Agape** is referring to the Godly, unconditional, all inclusive and omnipresent love. This category includes the desires of people who spend time with God's word and learn to love God and what He has done for them. They have compassion care and love toward their fellow man as well as the desire to care for animals and nature itself. Effects of love do abound.

In Heb. 10:24 we are told:

"Provoke one another to love and good works." For "thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind," And "Thou shall love

thy neighbor as thyself.”

"There is no doubt that giving of love and care bolsters the immune system of the body and helps people to resist and even overcome all kinds of sicknesses and diseases", states James MacKay, a member of the University team. He also found that selfless love and caring for others are directly linked to good health. Also a sense of humor and lack of cynicism seems to affect the disease fighting capabilities. In other words mister MacKay believes that if you feel good about yourself and others, the feeling is transmitted to disease fighting lymphocytes in the blood and in turn strengthens them.

Dr. Bernhard Siegel, The author of the book, "Love Medicine and Miracles" writes:

"I don't believe it's a coincidence that angry people succumb to disease; we have established that despair certainly affects the immune system. "I have seen ill patients recover when they adopted a more loving and positive attitude," adds the Connecticut surgeon.

Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Tim. 6:6-11, 17: Follow after: "Godliness with contentment, which is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Therefore, having food and raiment, let us be therewith content."

"But they: that desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the root of all evil is the love of money; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." And charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living

God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. "

Despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary many people still believe that money brings happiness. Those rich people, in the process of craving even greater riches, entangle themselves in an endless cycle that not only ends up in unhappiness, but in ruin and destruction as well. The scripture tells us in (1 Tim. 6:18) that they should do good so that they may be rich in good works, ready to distribute and willing to communicate and share. They should show love without dissimulation and abhor that which is evil and cleave to that which is good. [Rom. 12:9].

Some Christians have even learned to pretend to love others, or speak kindly, avoiding to hurt others feelings and appear to take interest in them, but avoid to speak the truth, because the truth might hurt or upset those people. They appear to take interest in people and speak kindly to them, but in truth their heart is not with them. They may even pretend to feel hurt and be moved with compassion when they hear of others needs or become indignant or hear of injustice, but can not find time nor room in their heart to help or comfort them. But God calls us to a real and sincere love in honesty, which is beyond politeness or pretence.

True sincere love requires concentration, effort and time. It means really helping others to become better and happier people. Yes, it actually demands time, personal involvement as well as financial support in some instances. For example there may be someone who has lost all of his or her possessions in a fire or other disaster, or those who lost a loved one and need personal support and encouragement not only sympathy. Such love works no ill toward his neighbor (Rom. 13:10). This includes one self.