
Words of Truth

Loving God And Our Brethren Is About Action

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Anyone who proclaims to be a disciple of our Lord, a saint, a Christian; will proclaim love for God and for one another. The thing is, words don't mean anything without actions to support those words. Paul told Titus: *"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate"* (Titus 1:16). John wrote: *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked"* (I John 2:3-6). Jesus said: *"For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say"* (Luke 6:43-46)?

The fact that actions speak louder than words is not something that is new to any of us. In fact, even ungodly people understand that principle. The world has a saying: "if you talk the talk you have to walk the walk." Walking the walk of love is about works much more than it is about words. Let's start our study in looking at some Scriptures about loving the Lord.

The Action Of Love Towards The Lord

Notice these words: *"If ye love me, keep my commandments... He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him... Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me"* (John 14:15, John 14:21, and John 14:23-24).

To apply the love Him follow His commandments principle, you have to understand that your life belongs to Him (Matthew 16:24-27, Romans 14:7-8, I Corinthians 6:20, II Corinthians 5:14-15, Colossians 3:1-4, and I Peter 4:1-2). You have to stop your thinking and start living

His thinking (Isaiah 55:6-9). You have to look not only at what our Lord stated, but also how He, the Apostles, and other faithful saints lived. You then have to follow the pattern of faithfulness they left for us to live after (I Corinthians 4:16, I Corinthians 11:1, Ephesians 5:1-2, Philippians 2:3-12, Philippians 3:3-17, and I Peter 2:21-25).

For an example of proper application, let's take a moment to consider how we can follow the instruction of loving our brethren. Jesus gave a commandment that His followers love each other as He loved us (John 13:34-35). We see that Jesus loved us because He gave His life for us (John 3:16, Romans 5:6-11, I Peter 1:18-22, and Revelation 1:5). His actions prove His love for us. One application, of many that could be made, is written here: *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"* (I John 3:14-18).

The Action Of Love Towards Our Brethren

As we have just read, loving brethren is about taking action. If you see a need, help. This applies to spiritual needs (Galatians 6:1-10) as well as physical needs (James 2:14-17). Loving our brethren is just as important as loving God Himself. The one cannot happen without the other (I John 4:20-5:3). The fact is, most of what we do as members of a faithful congregation is to the benefit of our brethren rather than for our Lord directly (Romans 12:9-16, Romans 14:19, Romans 15:1-3, I Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 4:16, I Thessalonians 5:11-14, Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:22-25, etc.). We are commanded as followers of Christ, in very clear terms, to love one another (John 15:12 and John 15:17). Brotherly love is something we grow in (I Thessalonians 3:12). Brotherly love is a relationship component that is linked to ways we are to treat one another (I Peter 3:8). Are you obeying our Lord by showing your love to your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Conclusion

Let's be doers of our Lord's instructions (James 1:21-27). *"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 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. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another"* (I John 4:7-11).