

The testimony above makes reference to those contemplating marriage. But, it also applies to those who unite for a common purpose of proclaiming the gospel.

“Let us” brethren “not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” (1 Joh3:18) and be truly “kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love” (Rom. 12:10).

### REFINED DEPORTMENT

When, in our Christian lives, we grasp what it means that “love imparts to its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment. It illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the whole being” (HDL 32), we shall shrink in offending, in the slightest manner, the soul for which Christ gave His life.

What seems to be mere words that “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Rom. 13: 10), shall become a living epistle., worthy of daily sacrifice.

Even character perfection, the only passport to heaven, is crowned by the virtue of love. It is written: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” (2 Peter 1:5-7).

“For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:8). The crowning virtue to the eight steps to character perfection is charity. The word charity is defined as the “supreme love to God, and universal good will to men” or love in action, thus drawing our attention once again to the new commandment of love (John 13:34).

Love, in its full and proper sense, is a union of the internal feelings with the outward act: whence it appears that neither doing good nor wishing good to another alone can in strict propriety be denominated love. Generally, if the inside concern is absent, so will the outward deeds.

“Christ's love transforms, sanctifies him. But when persons profess to be Christians, and their religion does not make them better men and better women in all the relations of life--living representatives of Christ in disposition and character--they are none of His.” (SL 55.1)

“Christians are all members of one family, all children of the same heavenly Father ... Very close and tender should be the tie that binds them together.” (AA 550.1)

### WORKS OF LOVE

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The next step in the ladder is charity. Add “to brotherly kindness charity,” which is love. Love to God and love to our neighbor constitute the whole duty of man. Without brotherly kindness we cannot exhibit the grace of love to God or to our fellow men. (OHC 73.2).

The relationship we have with others as prescribed in the Bible establishes an effective and efficient social order. It requires that we avoid strife which causes division, that we do not defraud others who we depend upon for honesty, that we reprove and correct one another that errors and mistakes be eliminated, that we offer forgiveness so that grief and hatred be not multiplied, and that we have fellowship with others for mutual comfort and edification.

The interrelations of people in society require that a moral code of conduct be adhered to. For ages the Bible has been a proven standard of good morals and social decorum. Man has always tried to devise his own moral code and social guidelines but they never are successful for long.

While God gave us liberty, as freemen we are not to use that liberty for a cloak of maliciousness and vice (1 Pet. 2:16), or as an opportunity to engage in lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:13). We are not to get drunk, slander our neighbor, or run around in indecent apparel just because we have the freedom to do so.

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What is this thing called  
**True Love**  
without dissimulation

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**L**ove is the ruling principle of God's government and it should be the ruling principle of action and of life here on earth. He who does not reflect the principle of love in life, regardless of his claim of being a Christian, does not love God. He who does not love his brother cannot love God as "The living power of faith will reveal itself in loving acts." (OHC 73.4).

"When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially." (DA 607.2).

"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." (1 John 4:21).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

All are to work in love and unity, looking to God as the great center. Love for Christ is the principle which unites man to his fellowmen." (LHU 292.3).

"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).

Why was this called "a new commandment"? The disciples had not loved one another as Christ had loved them. They had not yet seen the fullness of the love that He was to reveal in man's behalf. They were yet to see Him dying on the cross for their sins. Through His life and death they were to receive a new conception of love. The command to "love one another" was to gain a new meaning in the light of His self-sacrifice. In the light shining from the cross of Calvary they were to read the meaning of the words, "As I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (5BC 1140.1).

Why should this commandment be new to the disciples? The words, "As I have loved you" were yet to be fulfilled by the offering He was about to make for the sins of the world. As Christ had loved them, the disciples were to love one another. They were to show forth the love abiding in their hearts for men, women, and children, by doing all in their power for their salvation. But they were to reveal a specially tender love for all of the same faith. (5BC 1140.2).

"A new commandment I give unto you [That ye tolerate one another? No], 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." (RH, May

26, 1896).

### A TITLE TO HEAVEN

We must see the quality of love and how it is magnified on the Cross. Our creator magnified the act of nurturing love to fallen man on the Cross and, if we are true to our calling, we shall look at the Cross and behold love in expression.

To possess true godliness means to love one another, to help one another, (HP 287.5).

When the Lord's people are filled with meekness and tenderness for one another, they will realize that His banner over them is love and His fruit will be sweet to their taste. Heaven will begin on earth. They will make a heaven below in which to prepare for heaven above. (HP 287.6).

Christ would have us realize that our interests are one. A divine Saviour died for all, that all might find in Him their divine source. In Christ Jesus we are one. By the utterance of one name, "Our Father," we are lifted to the same rank. We become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. His principles of truth bind heart to heart, be they rich or poor, high or low. (HP 288.2).

The tongue will testify of the principles that characterize the life; it is the sure test of what power controls the heart. (LHU 148.2)

Those who speak as Christ spoke will never plant bitter words like barbed arrows in the wounded soul. (LHU 148.3)

The heaven to which the Christian is climbing will be attained only by those who have this crowning grace....Love is the great controlling power. When love leads, all the faculties of mind and spirit are enlisted. Love to God and love to man will give the clear title to heaven." (OHC 73.3).

If in Christ, we find a perfect Divine Pattern of love, and its sacrificial manifestation on the Cross of Calvary, then, it behooves us to love each other. The word 'behoove' means to "oblige". Therefore, we are obliged to love our brethren without dissimulation.

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." (Rom. 12:9).

### BASIS OF GODLINESS

The word 'dissimulation' means 'concealment'. Therefore, love is an action word, an act that cannot be hidden or kept secret. It should be seen in action and felt. The two commandments, to love God and to love our neighbour, have one common denominator-love.

"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).

Therefore, brethren, let us flee from a cold and loveless religion. If there is one religious duty of man towards his neighbour, it is to hold his brethren in deep affection because "Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother." (Mar. 101.2).

"To have unity and love for one another is the great work now to be carried on." (1888 26.2). There is no renewed heart that will read these counsels and continue to be defiant and unmoved.

"Troubles may invade, but these are the lot of humanity. Let patience, gratitude, and love keep sunshine in the heart though the day may be ever so cloudy." (AH 18.1).

"Our divine Lord is equal to any emergency. With Him nothing is impossible. He has shown His great love for us by living a life of self-denial and sacrifice and by dying a death of agony. Come to Christ just as you are. . . . Cast yourself wholly on His mercy. There is no difficulty within or without that cannot be surmounted in His strength." (HP 17.3).

It is written, "A new commandment I give unto you" and this commandment is to love one another and is "The perfect fruit of faith" that "often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness." (COL 61.1).

God is worshipped only when "truest love reigns." (ML 33.4).

### LOVE IS EXPRESSIVE

If we understand and appreciate this love, we shall manifest and express it in words, actions and in feelings.

"Those who are not willing to adapt themselves to each other's disposition, so as to avoid unpleasant differences and contentions, should not take the step. But this is one of the alluring snares of the last days, in which thousands are ruined for this life and the next." (AH 84.2).