

Assurance of Salvation Part 98

Love for the "brothers":

A focus on the "others"!

**BROTHERS
(& sisters)**

People who
love GOD

LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR

People who
DON'T love GOD

OTHERS

TODAY:

LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR

People who
DON'T love GOD

OTHERS

WHO are the "Others"?

"OTHERS" refers to:

- **Unsaved people:** People who admit they do not follow Jesus.
- **Fake "church-goers":** People who claim to follow Jesus, but who are satisfied with doing religious activities once or twice a week.*

*(Or any of the other variations of "fakeness.")

"OTHERS" can be DIFFICULT TO LOVE

- **Enemies:** Those who oppose and attack you:
 - Because they hate you (for whatever reason).
 - Because they hate the truth (God's Word).
- **Church-going fakes:** Those who "join" the church and lead others astray.
 - Not only are they going to hell, but by their influence, they could be taking others with them.

FAKES DON'T SEEM TO COMPREHEND THIS:

**Claiming to be saved
does not cause salvation to happen.**

.....

Another possibly difficult situation:

- **Unsaved family members:**
 - They know your faults and have the most interaction with you. (Your faults may be contributing to the problem!)
 - This is more of a problem when they are also enemies or church-going fakes.

WHY are we to love them?

- So we will be "children of our Father in heaven."

But I [Jesus] tell you this: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. In this way you show that you are children of your Father in heaven.

He makes his sun rise on people whether they are good or evil. He lets rain fall on them whether they are just or unjust.

Matthew 5:44-45 (GW)

- We will be following Jesus' example.

When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 (ESV)

- It's one of the results of the Spirit being present in our life – a "fruit of the Spirit."

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, ... [and 8 other characteristics].

Galatians 5:22 (ESV)

HOW are we to express love to them?

1. With A BASIC PRINCIPLE in mind.

- Their future eternal good: This is our ultimate goal.
- Their present temporal good: When possible, we desire this as well.
- If these 2 goals contradict: We consider their eternal destiny to be more important than their present circumstances.

THE ISSUE:

Their future vs. present situations.

FOREVER

A SHORT TIME
THEN GONE

To focus only (or mainly) on the condition of their present life is wicked and cruel.

- **GOD-HONORING:** "I want the best for you eternally, not just for the moment."
- **WICKED AND CRUEL:** "I want you to have a nice day!" [And ignore the eternal terror that awaits them.]

- Our #1 goal – it needs to be the same as God's: their repentance and salvation.

... not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9b (NIV)

- Even for other Christians, eternity must be our #1 priority! As the apostle John illustrates:

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

3 John 1:2 (NIV)

2. With KINDNESS, PATIENCE, COMPASSION, etc.

So they can see Jesus' love in what we do. (if they are willing to recognize it)

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:27b-28 (LEB)

If your enemy hungers, give him food to eat; and if he thirsts, give him water to drink.

Proverbs 25:21 (ISV)

(See also the "Parable of the Good Samaritan," Luke 10:29-37.)

3. With CONFRONTATION.

So that they know they need to change.
(This is especially applicable to church-goers.)

- An unwillingness to confront, rebuke, warn, etc., is an expression of *hatred*.

Do not hate your brother in your heart.
Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.

Leviticus 19:17 (NIV)

- If you choose to remain silent, you might as well tell them you *want* them to go to hell!

Here's
more about the
CONFRONTATION
issue



- **NOT:** Because we think it's *more* important.
 - Instead, it's *equally* important.
- **RATHER:** Because the world so strongly opposes it. (And the false gospel lies about it.)
 - We need to realize that confrontation is *really* mentioned in the Bible and is *part of our duty!*

"CONFRONTATION" – Is this "for real"?

- **YES!!** It is found throughout Scripture!
 - *Preachers of the "false gospel" won't tell you this!*

•••••

In Scripture, you will find:

- **"Non-confrontational" passages**
 - These tend to involve people who have *not* rejected the truth. (Even then, they are told to stop sinning.)
- **"Confrontational" passages**
 - These tend to involve people who have rejected the truth (especially those who lead others astray).

JESUS confronted people.

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

Matthew 23:13a (NIV)

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.

John 8:44a (NIV)

He also warned others about them.

For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah.' They will lead many astray.

Matthew 24:5 (NLT)

JESUS' FOLLOWERS confronted people.

You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

Acts 7:51 (NIV)

You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?

Acts 13:10 (NIV)

They also warned others about them.

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2 Cor. 11:13 (NIV)

They were even willing to mention people by name!

The scribes and the Pharisees ... they don't practice what they preach.

Matthew 23:2a, 3b (GW)

Demas has abandoned me. He fell in love with this present world ...

2 Tim. 4:10a (GW)

Alexander the metalworker ... The Lord will pay him back for what he did.

2 Tim. 4:14 (GW)



**Does your attitude toward
UNSAVED PEOPLE
need adjusted?**



- **IF YOU SAY:**
 - "I don't want to hurt their feelings."
 - "I don't warn people, because it's too 'negative!'"
- **Then you might as well say:**
 - "I want them to go to hell!" ... because that's what you're accomplishing.



**Does your attitude toward
CHURCH-GOING FAKES
need adjusted?**



- **IF YOU TREAT THEM AS GENUINE:**
 - It's the same as wanting them to go to hell... *along with anyone they're influencing.*
- **If you do this, then...**
 - You share in their guilt.
 - You are in danger of also being condemned by God.

**END of the
CONFRONTATION
issue**



I NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE!

- Don't forget your "confrontational" obligations!
- Don't forget your "non-confrontational" obligations!

↓
In other words...

AVOID DISTORTED "HALF-TRUTH."

Of course...

**This may require
you to find out what
the Bible says!**



THAT MAKES SENSE!!!

- **You don't want to be opposing the truth, do you?**
[You'd be the one who needed to be confronted!]

A GOD-HONORING
EXAMPLE!!!

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians [who opposed Paul], for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

**Some final comments about
love for the "others."**

1. **You can show love to them only in this present life. So do it now!**
 - You can love the "brothers" for all eternity.
 - But there is no love in the lake of fire.
2. **When you love the "others" the way Jesus did... it shows that you are following Jesus.**
 - You won't always have to go to the extreme of dying for them (as Jesus did).

YOUR MISSION:

LOVE THE "OTHERS"!

- You used to be one of the "others." Follow the example of one who loved you!

... and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephes. 5:2 (NIV)

Credits (1)

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