

Assurance of Salvation Part 102

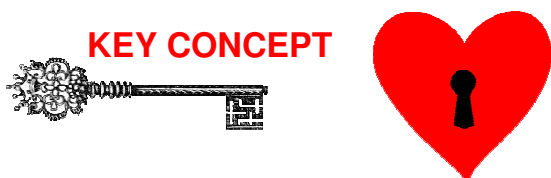
Love for the "brothers":

Types of love that are not proof
of salvation

LOVE FOR THE BROTHERS



KEY CONCEPT



- **"LOVE FOR THE BROTHERS"** is proof of salvation...



... but there are types of "love"
– even GOOD types –
that are proof of nothing (or worse)
(as far as salvation is concerned).

#1 - GOOD types of love that even unsaved people can have.

- God has made it possible for even unsaved people to have some types of GOOD love.
 - It's part of his kindness to the unsaved.
 - Without it, the world would be a much worse place to live in.
- This love does not prove you are saved.



Family love

- Husband and wife.
- Parents and children.
- Extended or adopted family members, etc.

**They can
have it,
even if
they are
unsaved.**

EXAMPLE:

Even though you're evil, you know how to
give good gifts to your children.

Luke 11:13a (GW)

Friendship love & people sharing a common cause

- Friends.
- People who share common interests or hobbies.
- People who belong to the same religious, political, or national entity.

**They can
have it,
even if
they are
unsaved.**

EXAMPLE:

Are you doing anything remarkable if you welcome
only your friends? Everyone does that!

Matthew 5:47 (GW)

#2 – Love with FALSE MOTIVES

- Even GOOD types of love are sin, if done for the wrong reasons.
- This "love" does not prove you are saved. Rather, it is sin!



YOU MAY FOOL YOURSELF (AND OTHERS), BUT YOU WON'T FOOL GOD.

And God, who knows the heart, ...

Acts 15:8a (NASB)

"PAYBACK" love

- Loving the people who love you back.

EXAMPLE:

If you love those who love you, do you deserve any thanks for that? Even sinners love those who love them.

Luke 6:32 (GW)

"GOOD IMPRESSIONS" love & "WHAT CAN I GET" love

- Doing what looks like "love," so that you can impress others, gain their favor, obtain something from them, etc.

EXAMPLES:

Everything they do is done for men to see: ...

Matthew 23:5a (NIV)

In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 23:28 (NIV)

#3 – "PEOPLE-PLEASING" love*

- **Expressing** love only in ways that please others or bring you their approval...
- **Omitting** aspects of love that might not gain their approval...
... doing this will not bring you God's favor!

- This "love" does not prove that you saved. Rather, it is sin!



*(Sometimes, we can also call this "Half-truth Love.")

"WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR" love

- The apostles warn of a day when people will only listen to others who say what they want to hear.

... to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear..

2 Tim. 4:3b (NIV)

SAY IT AGAIN!


IT FEELS SO-O-O GOOD!

The world calls it being "positive" and "loving."

The prophets prophesy lies,
the priests rule by their own authority,
and my people love it this way.
But what will you do in the end [when judgment comes]?

Jeremiah 5:31 (NIV)

- **Genuine love** is willing to confront sin and to stand up for righteousness, even when it will result in people's displeasure.



HORROR!!!
Sounds like CONFRONTATION!!
Not "POSITIVE"!!

- This is the attitude that evil King Ahab had!

[King Ahab replied]... "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the Lord, but *I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad.*"
 1 Kings 22:8a (NIV)

ARE YOU LIKE KING AHAB?

"CONFRONTATION"?

What will a *genuine* "brother" do?

1) He will confront sin when necessary, just as Jesus commanded.

"If a believer does something wrong, ..."
 [Continued on the next page] ON NEXT PAGE 

Matthew 18:15-17

Refusal to do this is hate!

Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.
 Leviticus 19:17 (NIV)

- Many people have become hopelessly trapped in sin, after others refused to do this:

If a believer does something wrong, go, confront him when the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have won back that believer. But if he does not listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation may be verified by two or three witnesses. If he ignores these witnesses, tell it to the community of believers. If he also ignores the community, deal with him as you would a heathen or a tax collector.

Matthew 18:15-17 (GW)

2) He will also deal with his own sins.

– Otherwise, he brings judgment upon himself.

DON'T BE A HYPOCRITE!

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.
 Matthew 7:5 (NIV)

[PLANK = your sins; SPECK = his sins]

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.

★ But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

How will a *genuine* "brother" **respond to confrontation, if he is the one guilty of sin?**

- He will accept the rebuke and will repent.**

Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.

Psalm 141:5a (ESV)

[God may have to work on him, before he accepts it. But even if there is a delay, it will happen.]

NOTE #1: It must involve SIN!

- If it involves you pushing your own opinions, personal preferences, false teachings, etc. →

But we did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the Good News would always be yours.

Galatians 2:5 (GW)

IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO PUSH SUCH THINGS, WHO NEED CONFRONTED!

"SPIRITUAL" PEOPLE
EAT THE SAME TYPES
OF FOOD AS I DO.

I DISCOVERED A NEW
WAY TO INTERPRET"
JESUS...

NOTE #2: It will work both ways!

If THEY are genuine brothers:

- THEY will repent if we have to confront them.

But on the other hand...

If WE are genuine brothers:

- WE will repent if they have to confront us!



We BOTH need
to grow!



Now back to the examples of:

#3 – "PEOPLE-PLEASING" love

- One last example...



"GIVING GOD 2ND PLACE" love

- Putting people ahead of God is sin!

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the **first and greatest commandment**.

And the **second** is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

- There is normally no conflict between "love for God" and "love for neighbor (and brother)."

- But if a conflict does occur, then "LOVE FOR GOD" takes precedence.

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26 (NIV)

- "Hate" – only when there is a conflict with "love for God."
 - It's saying "YES" to God and "NO" to others/self.

[We've looked at this issue before, so we won't look further at it here.]

YOUR MISSION

- Evaluate yourself with the "two big IF's."

[ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES]

- You will discover that your salvation is described by one of the following:

NO
GUARANTEE

GUARANTEED

The FIRST big "IF"

- "IF" you only have these three types of love for others...
 - Types of love that anyone can have.
 - Love with the wrong motives.
 - People-pleasing love.
- There is **NO GUARANTEE** that you are saved.*
 - Some of these strongly suggest that you aren't saved.

BUT THIS CAN CHANGE
if you're willing to pay
attention to the next page.

**NO
GUARANTEE**

The SECOND big "IF"

- "IF" you have love for the "brothers"...
 - Simply because they are God's children:
 - God's character is reflected through them.
 - They deny self; they love and obey God.
 - **And:** If you love them even more when they become more like Christ.
 - **And:** If you love (and forgive) them, even when you see their weaknesses.

- Your salvation is **GUARANTEED.**
(This love has its origin in GOD!)

GUARANTEED

Credits (1)

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