

To Love the Lord Thy God - Spiritually, part 19 quotes

1 The Emotion of Love Dealing With Non-Family Members

Non-family members would represent all whom you are not related to, which would basically be everyone else in the entire world -- including neighbors, friends, acquaintances and even strangers. But is it really true that God would have all of His followers love the entire human population of earth, irregardless of race, nationality, creed, color or cast?

“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.

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:7-8.

“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....Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another....If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.” 1 John 4:9, 11-12.

These verses reveal that God manifested and expressed His self-sacrificing and self-denying love for every human being on this earth, including those who were not yet connected with Him. So if His followers want to indeed show that they love of the Lord thy God and to have His love perfected in them, then they must also follow His example and unselfishly love all human beings, irregardless of race, nationality, creed, color or cast, and also irregardless of whether they know the people or not.

“The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.” Deuteronomy 28:9.

“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.” 1 John 2:5-6.

2 Love for Neighbors

“Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.” Exodus 20:13-17.

“Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.” Leviticus 19:13.

The Hebrew word for “neighbor” used in these verses is “reya”, and it translates and means “an associate, companion, fellow, neighbor, another” (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, word #7453). The word neighbor is not just referring to someone who lives next door to your home, but is referring to anyone who is basically living within your ability to come in contact with them and do these forbidden sins against.

3 You cannot commit adultery against someone you were not able to personally come into contact with. Neither could you steal or covet anything of your neighbor's that you were unable to personally see for yourself first.

“...love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:8-10.

These commandments of God are prohibitions that specifically restrict God's followers from doing these different actions against their neighbors. If you keep yourself from doing any of these sins against another with whom you are able to come in contact with, then you are indeed showing true unselfish love for your neighbor, and thus are fulfilling God's law, even though you may not have personally done anything for them in actions of kindness! This clearly shows that you can reveal true self-sacrificing and self-denying love for another by just not sinning against them!

Many believe you must show an active love for another by doing acts of kindness for them, or you are not revealing true Godly love for that person. But this is not true according to God's word!

“Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:14.

That deaf person could not hear you cursing them, and that blind person could not see you placing things in their pathway to stumble over. Even though the person themselves were not aware of what you did to them, yet God still prohibits His followers from doing such things that “worketh ill to his neighbor”. So we see that it is by not doing certain things to another, even though they may never know, that we would be revealing the true self-sacrificing and self-denying form of love to them, albeit a passive form of this unselfish Godly love.

4 What are some Bible verses specifically dealing with showing the active form of Godly love to your neighbor or to anyone within your ability to come in contact with?

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.” Luke 10:27-37.

The Samaritan who did all these neighborly acts of kindness in caring for that person he chanced to come into contact with, thereby revealed this active form of unselfish Godly love for his neighbor.

Christ specifically mentioned those who were proud of their devotion in worshiping God and leading others into understanding the truth, yet He depicted these as being devoid of showing forth this active form of Godly love. While the other who was not known for their devotion in worshiping God or of leading others into the understanding of the truth, Christ depicted as indeed showing forth this active form of Godly love. Christ was thereby rebuking the proud and self-centered professors of religion whose own interests led them to manifest and express the false Satanic form of selfish love towards others, and a dead faith, while honoring the humble and lowly whose self-sacrificing and self-denying actions reveal the true Godly form of love, and a faith that was alive and real.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity [true self-denying and self-sacrificing love], I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

5 “Let no man [selfishly] seek his own [welfare], but every man [unselfishly seek to build up] another's wealth.” 1 Corinthians 10:24.

This verse reveals that we are not just to be lovingly concerned about the welfare of the person themselves, but we are also to have an unselfish concern for their wealth!

6 “Thou shalt not see thy brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother. And if thy brother be not nigh unto thee, or if thou know him not, then thou shalt bring it unto thine own house [to care for], and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after it, and thou shalt restore it to him again. In like manner shalt thou do with his ass; and so shalt thou do with his raiment; and with all lost thing of thy brother's, which he hath lost, and thou hast found, shalt thou do likewise: thou mayest not hide thyself. Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again.” Deuteronomy 22:1-4.

These verses show that God's followers are not just to manifest a loving concern for their neighbor's personal welfare, but are also to manifest a loving and unselfish concern for any of his possessions of wealth as well — not in greedily coveting them for ourselves, but in protecting them for their sake. We to not only to protect our neighbor from personal harm, but also protect their property and possessions of wealth from harm as well.

7 “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:32.

We are to lovingly honor and respect the elderly, which can be done in a lot of different ways.

8 “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour. Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:15-16.

“These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates”. Zechariah 8:16.

These verses reveal that if someone comes to you accusing another of sinning, that you are not to instantly believe what you are told and then spread the same accusations to others. This is because you do not want to be guilty of misjudging them and becoming unrighteous yourself, and thus bringing their blood upon you. But before you believe and spread any accusations against another, you are first to take the time to fully investigate into the matter, carefully gathering up all facts from both sides and then prayerfully weighing the evidence, so that your judgement can be based upon a full knowledge of the real facts in the issue and therefore can be completely righteous. This is necessary because whatever judgement you give towards another, whether righteous or unrighteous, you yourself will be judged in the exact same way!

“For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” Matthew 7:2.

9 What if you become indifferent and ignore the accuser or the accused, and refuse to get involved? Your silence and lack of action would make you guilty of either allowing false accusation to continue to spread, or of allowing sin to continue to be practiced!

“And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul;...if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day; then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirmeth them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them.” Numbers 30:6, 14.

If we hear accusations against another, and we choose to do nothing about it from day to day, then it is by our silence that we confirm the accusation, and if it is a false accusation, then we would become a partaker of this sin. If we become a partaker of the sin because of our silence, instead of receiving the blessing of God by following His word in seeking to help His people to overcome their sins, we would receive His curse because of our inaction!

“Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.” Judges 5:23.

10 Let us not turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to those spreading accusations against another, but instead take the time to carefully investigate into the matter from both sides in order to determine the facts and render a righteous unbiased judgement against sin wherever it is found, even amongst our loved ones, and irregardless of their anger or the consequences for doing so!

“Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.” Psalms 31:18.

“Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence...? (No)!” Job 31:34.

“And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear”. Ezekiel 2:6-7.

11 If we are already guilty of ignoring and refusing to get involved, then determine no longer to keep silent, but investigate into the facts, render a righteous unbiased judgement in reproving the guilty and defending the innocent, and thereby receive the blessings of God and not His curse.

“Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son. These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will (now) reprove thee, and set them (thy sins) in order before thine eyes.” Psalms 50:19-21.

“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence.” Isaiah 62:6.

“Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth, judge righteously”. Proverbs 31:8-9.

12 What are those who have been wronged supposed to do to those who have wronged them?

“And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour...for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD....therefore love the truth and peace”. Zechariah 8:17, 19.

“Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:16-18.

If someone has hurt you in some way, you are not to try to imagine the reason why they did it to you, but you are instead to go to them and talk about the matter, and even rebuke them if it is indeed a sin that they committed against you. And if after doing this once or twice, they should choose not to repent, then you are not to hold a grudge against them, but to instead leave them with God to deal with.

“A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself. Titus 3:10-11.