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THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE PART 3

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 Second Ebenezer Church



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 3)

I. Introduction

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

Do everything in love



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II. KEY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE RIGHT WAY OF LOVE

A. KEY OBSERVATION #7: THE **RIGHT STANDARD** OBSERVATION

**WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT STANDARDS OF LOVE TO
LOVE THE RIGHT WAY**



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ISAIAH 59:19 (KJV)

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.



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TOP SCRIPTURAL SOURCES FOR OUR STANDARD OF LOVE

1. JESUS CHRIST EXAMPLE OF LOVE

The ultimate source for our standards for love is the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. God the father sent his Son Jesus Christ to the earth to die for the sins of the world, and to model for humanity how to live a life of love. Jesus, the Son of Man was the practical embodiment, and prophetic personification of love. Christ had no weaknesses or deficits with love. He was the sacrificial lamb for sin because of God's love. If Jesus is love, and he lives inside of us, we must allow his love to show and flow like never before. The primary way that we do that is by following the example of love he set during his earthly ministry. We must all strive to be Jesus Jr.'s and Mini me's when it comes to matters of love.



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2. PAUL'S CLASSIC CHAPTER ON LOVE

The Apostle Paul devotes the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 13 to providing a highly practical and prophetic profile of the prominence, power and place of God's love in the life of a believer. This is the single greatest chapter in the entire bible on the topic of love. It deals with what love is, and isn't in an extraordinarily concise yet comprehensive manner. Paul does a masterful job of explaining and illustrating the in's and out's of God's love. The things that are highlighted by Paul about love, are so profoundly insightful and impactful that the wise Christ follower should read and practice them daily. We should meditate on the content until they are memorized, internalized and etched into our hearts.



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3. JOHN'S FOUR BOOKS ON LOVE

The gospel of John, and his three letters to the Elect Lady comprises The Apostle John's Magnus Opus on love. Simply put, John writes the greatest books ever written on the topic of love. Even C. S. Lewis classic book titled the four loves, and Gary Chapmen's best selling book titled the five love languages, significantly pales in comparison.

Though John addresses other topics in these four New Testament writings, he seems to come back to the central theme of love time and time again. He provides us with many of the top of the list passages on love. It's no surprise that John did such an extraordinary job of writing about love when you consider his loving relationship with Christ during his early ministry.



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B. KEY OBSERVATION #8: THE RIGHT SIDE
OBSERVATION

WE MUST UTILIZE THE MOST FITTING SIDE
OF LOVE TO LOVE THE RIGHT WAY



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LOVING FROM THE RIGHT SIDE OF OUR HEART

1. THE TENDER SIDE OF LOVE (Philadelphia\Smyrna)

The tender side of love is loving others in an affirming, affectionate or soft manner. This is the side of love that is most enjoyed and preferred by most. Christ loved people with a tender love the majority of the time, and so should we. Good examples of Christ tender love would be his reclining with John, his interaction with the women with an issue of blood and his blessing of the children.. It's interesting to note that just because someone is a male, or have had a hard life doesn't mean they can't love others in a tender or soft manner. Loving others in a tender manner is often just what doctor Jesus has ordered for their healing. It Also brings out a different type of flavor and favor in our relationships with others.



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2. THE TOUGH SIDE OF LOVE (Laodicea)

The tough side of loving others is being firmly and diplomatically challenging and confrontational with them. This is the side of love that the majority of people prefer not to give or get. It can put the joy and fun of our relationship with others at risk, whether done right or wrong. However, tough love is often just what we and others need to grow and mature as followers of Christ, and members of the human family. The fruit of tough love is not always seen or appreciated right away, however, it still can be the most loving thing to do. Good examples of Christ tough love was when he rebuked Peter by saying “get thee behind me Satan.” Also, when he whipped the money changers out of the temple.



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3. THE TWIN SIDE OF LOVE (Sardis\Ephesus\Pergamum\Thyratira)

The twin side of loving others is giving them a combination or blend of tender and tough love. It's using both sides of love simultaneously or successively. To borrow from a boxing analogy, it's hitting someone with the one two combination punch of love. Sometimes people need to be given tough and tender love all in the same moment. We have to hit them with the right hand of tenderness and the left hand of toughness. Other times we have to hit them with a love that is a mixture of tender and tough. Good examples of Christ twin love can be seen in his encounters with the women at the well, and the woman caught in adultery. He aptly provided both with a delicate mixture of tender and tough love.



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C. KEY OBSERVATION #9: THE **RIGHT SUPPORT**
OBSERVATION

WE NEED THE RIGHT KIND OF HELP TO LOVE
THE RIGHT WAY



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ECCLESIA TES 4:9-12

- 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:
- 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
- 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?
- 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.



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HEBREWS 10:24

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.



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PURSUING THE RIGHT KIND OF HELP

1. RELEVANT AFFIRMATION

Relevant affirmation is the practice of receiving encouragement from others in a relevant, meaningful and timely manner. Because loving others the right way can be so difficult, we need people on our love support team to encourage us to do so, in spite of the challenges. Often we're unable to rise above our disinterest and disabilities in matters of love without receiving relevant affirmation from key people. It's important that others realize that not all forms of encouragement carry the same degree of value and impact with us. The most impactful affirmation is the type that is customized and tailor made to fit us.

There's nothing wrong with respectfully letting people know the type of affirmation that we find helpful.



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2. RIGHTEOUS ADVISE

Righteous advise is receiving good and godly counsel from others about how to love the right way. A wise man or women will proactively seek and welcome wise counsel in matters of love. They recognize that they don't know everything, and that others sometimes have a better vantage point with some matters of life and love. The bible states in proverbs 4:7, that "wisdom is the supreme thing." In other words, the wisest thing we can do in matters of love is to seek wisdom, or righteous advise from others. There are three primary sources of righteous advise. Firstly, God's Holy Scriptures is the ultimate source. Secondly, God's Holy Spirit is an invaluable source. Thirdly, God's holy servants can be remarkably helpful.



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3. REAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Real accountability is when others sincerely, scripturally and strategically challenge us to love the right way. We need people in our lives who we give permission to hold us responsible in matters of love. These individuals can't be afraid to speak the truth in love to us about love. They should be able to come to us when they see something wrong or off in our love life. We should also go to them periodically and seek their opinion on how we're doing in the area of love. Daniel and the three Hebrew boys are a great old testament example of the power of team work and accountability. Though they found themselves in a strange land and difficult place, they held one another accountability to loving God, self and others.