



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



February 2016

Volume 10, Number 7

Jim Bishop, a newspaper columnist, wrote a story about a young couple preparing to catch a train. It was a cold winter day and snow was on the ground. As they walked across the tracks, they both laughed and talked, as young people do. The young woman looked at her friend and asked, "What is true love?"

The young man gave her a dictionary answer, and she looked at him and laughed: "You don't know what true love is!"

They continued laughing as they rushed across the tracks. But as they got halfway across, the young woman's high-heeled shoe got caught in one of the tracks. It was so cold that they couldn't loosen the multiple buttons on her shoes. They pulled and pulled, trying to free the high-buttoned shoe loose, but the shoe would not budge.

Seeing the approaching train, the young lady fainted. The young man held her in his arms, but there still was time for him to run across the tracks. He saw the train coming closer. Realizing that he would not be able to save the girl, he buried her head in his bosom and shouted out amidst the roar of the train, "THIS IS WHAT TRUE LOVE IS!" He stayed there and died with her.

When we read Romans 5:6, we hear Jesus shouting to us above the roar of the cross, "THIS IS WHAT TRUE LOVE IS!" Everything that God has done for us centers around His love! But what is the love of God? Reverend Brian Bill asked the question, "How do we define it?" Reverend Bill acknowledged that human love is generally a response to the conditions and circumstances around us. We love because someone pleases us, they're good-looking, or they make us laugh.

By contrast, God loves us because that's the kind of God He is, period! Nothing in us causes Him to love us. Matthew Henry has said, "The great God not only loves His saints, but He loves to love them." Just think – we were ungodly and spiritually weak. We were without strength,

but Christ died for us. The word "asthenes," which is translated, "without strength," means "weak, worthless, useless, helpless, destitute, and powerless." We were enemies of God because of the sin that was in our lives. Before we accepted Christ as our Savior, this was the description of our lives. We had no desire to change. We were not only helpless, but also vile. We were irreverent and impious, and we refused to acknowledge God as God!

It doesn't matter that we considered ourselves good by man's standards. We were sinners. We were not righteous and we were not good when Christ died for us. In Romans 3:23, we are told that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. In Romans 6:23, there is only one response to our sin – it is death.

But in due time, right as the train of destruction was about to overtake us, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (Galatians 4:4-5) The Scripture is very clear in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." He died for us.

At the Cheesecake Factory, there is a chocolate cheesecake that is so good, so delicious, so mouth-watering, that they call it "Death by Chocolate." The idea is the cheesecake is so good, it is worth dying for! We sometimes use the expression, "It's worth dying for!" to express our fondness of something. This misguided saying is only an effort to convey the height of our enjoyment for that object. It is the strongest language to reflect our feelings about it. But most of us would not actually be willing to die for chocolate cheesecake! Love is demonstrated the best in sacrifice, and that is what Christ did for us!

When comparing God's great love to the love of man, Paul said in Romans 5:7, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die." But Christ was [Read the rest >>>](#)



Q. How does one “love like Jesus” in a world which equates His love with weakness?

A. C.S. Lewis said, “Love is not an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person’s ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.” We know Jesus demonstrated love for the world through His sacrificial death on a cross. We know He displayed love in His life through selflessly teaching and feeding the multitudes; powerfully casting out demons; mercifully healing the sick, blind, mute, and lame; and dramatically raising the dead. These demonstrations of love were not driven by an affectionate feeling. What we see through the biblical testimony of Jesus in the Scriptures is an unwavering desire for the loved person’s ultimate good.

Our view of others’ ultimate good is often clouded by the harsh realities of our sinful world. We want to think the best of people; but they fail us, turn on us, and betray our confidence. This hurts our pride, leading to resentment and bitterness. Then instead of thinking about what is in others’ best interests, our thoughts zero in on their offenses against us. Like Queen Elsa in the Disney movie Frozen, we erect walls between us and those we love because of our fear of being hurt or of hurting others. Sometimes we withhold others’ ultimate good because of jealousy fueled by insecurity or because of envious covetousness. We’re a rotten bunch.

If our own sinfulness were not a sufficient obstacle to love, consider this: Love has been marginalized, misunderstood, misrepresented, mislabeled, taken advantage of, betrayed, spat upon, crowned with thorns, beaten within an inch of its life, torn to shreds, and crucified by its enemies — remember what they did to Jesus? Love isn’t safe. It isn’t easy or convenient. In fact, it may cost you everything. Love anyway.

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket — safe, dark, motionless, airless — it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. . . . The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers . . . of love is Hell. — C.S. Lewis



Jesus knew the risks associated with loving others. Aren’t you glad He didn’t allow these risks to keep Him from sharing His love? We will never love like Jesus until our hearts and minds have been transformed by Him. He experienced the same disappointments as you and me. He endured the same interpersonal stressors as we do, yet He always responded in a way which sought others’ ultimate good. What was the difference? Unlike us, Jesus saw the world’s brokenness through God’s eyes and looked upon its pain and desperation with God’s heart. This allowed Him to see with laser vision through the thick, ugly clouds of sin which often cause us to put the needs of our hurting world out of focus. Jesus’ unclouded vision of reality enabled Him to continue seeking . . . [Read the rest >>>](#)



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