

## I Peter 4:8

**<sup>8</sup> Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.**

Love is what separates us from any of the false religions on this earth. Our Lord Jesus was a perfect example of love in every way. Throughout the New Testament, we see love is the very foundation of our faith. Look with me at what Jesus said concerning love in **Matthew 22:37-38**, **"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."**  
<sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' <sup>40</sup> "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Many believers recognize that they need the Love of our Lord, but often fall short in giving that same gift to others around them. We judge others by their actions, but ourselves by our intentions. It is so easy to fall prey into having or taking on a judgmental or critical spirit. This critical or legalistic nature cannot cohabit with love. Some of the greatest scholars of Jesus day, tried to trip Him up with the letter of the law; yet He always put them in their place with His wisdom. What we are commanded to do, is to cover one another with our love. Let me be very clear about something here, I am not talking about unrepentant sin; where a person knowingly chooses to continue in sin. But, what I am talking about is when someone does or says something that you don't agree with, not trying to publicly discredit or humiliate them. That is certainly not your job, and you need to be especially careful who you are doing it to as well. Sometimes we think we are helping God with exposing sins, faults or discrepancies in one another's lives. Yet if we were as spiritual as we think we are, instead we would cover one another. Look around at the churches in your area. How many of the churches in your town co-minister? How many pastors have relationships where they trust one another to go and confess their sins? Why is it that we serve the same God, yet we can't get along with one another? Sadly, we tear each other down out of ignorance, instead of lifting one another up as we are commanded. We are somehow deceived into believing that the only one we need to love, is our Lord. My heart is to see the Kingdom of God established here on earth!! That will never happen until we start changing from our sinful ways. As long as we are tearing each other down, we will never have the time to build one another up! How long must we wait until we start growing up? We must stop the hypocritical lifestyle of claiming to love one another out of one side of our mouths, and then assassinating their character out of the other.

Look with me at **Proverbs 10:12**, <sup>12</sup> **Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.** Church what is your motive, to expose or to cover your brother? Your very actions are a clear indication of what is in your heart. Choose today, to start loving one another, to protect one another even if it is not being reciprocated in your own life. It is so easy to tear someone down, but if you are a believer in Christ; then that is NOT your calling!! If loving people is honestly hard for you, then ask Jesus to give you His love for the people that you come in contact with. It will change your life!