

March 26, 2023

The Fruit of Love

by George Slover

You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:17-18)

We are very familiar with the Bible phrase: "love you neighbor as yourself". It is repeated many times in Old and New Testaments. It is called the "royal law" (James 2:8), and the fulfillment of the law. (Galatians 5:14) But, consider its setting in the above text.

First, there are times when love involves correction. In fact there are times when a failure to correct may be a failure to love. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. By withholding such rebuke I may become a partaker with my neighbor in sin. Instead of nursing resentment, I must try to win my brother back to the path of truth. (Galatians 6:1) Such correction is a manifestation of love. (Galatians 6:1,2; James 5:19,20)

Second, there are times when forbearance is needed. When my correction is motivated by jealousy, malice, or revenge, it becomes unloving as well. These may be signs of hatred in my heart. Thus, with correction I must check my motives lest I incite bitterness. I must be careful to correct the wrong

and not some peculiar personality trait that "gets under my skin." Patience must be exercised to allow the one being restored to sort through his thoughts and make the necessary changes.

If I will remember the love and patience God has for me, I will rise to the noble height where *love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)*

Joyful Devotion

By George Slover

"For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. (Psalms 84:10-11)

It would be difficult to find a more intense expression of devotion in all of the Old Testament than the one above. To prefer a day in God's court over a thousand elsewhere would be considered a strange desire to many. Few

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our Gospel Meeting with Bubba Garner - April 2-5

Gospel Meeting st Cedar Park, March 26-29

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

would sympathize with such a fanatic. Even good people might relegate such an expression to a mad man! The language here is an expression of one who greatly delights in God.

What is the source his joyful devotion? First, there is the joy of praise. *“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”* (Psalms 34:1) Second, there is the joy of communion with God. *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”* (Psalms 23:1) Third, there is the joy of fellowship with God’s people- the common prayer, the harmonious praise, and the sharing of a common salvation. Fourth, there is the joy of service- the privilege of opening the door of God’s kingdom as a refuge to the lost, and a place of consolation for believers.

Unfortunately, there are others who would deem such service as “weariness.” (Malachi 1:13) To them a sense of duty exceeds a sense of privilege, and obedience means constraint rather than joy! Joyless service is neither profitable nor acceptable. What a disappointment to the Father when his children take no delight in drawing near to him!

Here is a challenge for you the reader. Which truly brings delight? Which truly has your heart’s devotion? Is it God’s service or the world?

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues and will be having cataracts removed soon.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman is having difficulties with his feet.

Doug Adair is preparing to have surgery on his back

Lisa Mullen (Darrell’s sister) is under treatment for cervical cancer that has spread. They put in a feeding tube and she is a little stronger. Radiation is almost done and chemo starts next week.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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