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## Seek Earnestly for Charity Which is the Pure Love of Christ



Jesus Christ was born into a dark cold world, where there was very little charity. The poor, the needy and afflicted were ignored, or even worse made to be outcasts of society. In Jesus' day there was a penalty if you beat your ox to death but there was no penalty for killing one's slave. Compassion was lacking and life was cheap.

In the cruel environment of His day, Jesus was truly a bright light in a dark world. He was an example for all mankind as He lived out Charity, the pure love of God, in His life. He was concerned about the poor, the needy and those afflicted with all manner of diseases. He ministered to the body and the soul, teaching the gospel. Yet very aware of both the physical and spiritual needs of those around Him and those who sought Him out. *And his fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases, and torments, and those who were possessed with devils, and those who were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them (Matthew 4:23).*

Jesus had great love and compassion for all those he came in contact with be they saint or sinner. His love and willingness to forgive those in sin was manifested when He encountered the woman taken in adultery saying: *Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11*

*She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more. And the woman glorified God from that hour, and believed on his name (John 8:10).*

**His greatest expression of charity was the Atonement.** He said: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).* With an indescribable love beyond anything we can imagine He died for you and for me. Ray Zinser said in, *The Words of Christ:* Christ is the only role model we can follow as we seek direction in our lives.

*And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given, nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent (Mosiah 1:116).*

*Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you (John 13:13-15).*

*For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).*

**Jesus desires that we receive His love and that we share it with all we come in contact with. He taught the principle of Love/Charity when He said:** *A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:34-35).*

**Moroni said concerning charity:** *And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all,*

for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them (Moroni 7:51-52 ). Also see I Corinthians 13.

Brothers and Sisters of the faith, in this the last days, now more than ever we cannot stand by and be a part time disciple. We must put on the mantle of charity and live it out in our daily lives. *See that ye love one another...and above all things, clothe yourselves with the bonds of charity, as with a mantle, which is a bond of perfectness and peace; pray always, that you may not faint until I come; behold, and lo, I will come quickly, and receive you unto myself. Amen (Doctrine & Covenants 85:38a).*

## Digging Deeper



Arthur Oakman in a talk given at the Seminar on the Zion Community said: “My friends and colleagues, if with the love of God in your hearts you will look into the lives of others and the lives of all those whom you come in contact, you will see the towers of Zion arising in their glory and beauty.

And when you come in contact with those sunk in degradation and sin, and you see the image of the Lord Jesus as it is intended to be, and you act towards those people as if they had already achieved that which you see is possible in them, you will cause them to be quickened, and they will find new life, and be brought to the altar of God, confessing their sins...All of us are beggars...to know God is life...To be in His presence is the essence of glory and joy. Seek His face always...seek for His own sake that you may dwell with Him, for Love seeks its own.” *And humble yourselves even in the*

*depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come...And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins...And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need. And ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish...For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same being, even God, for all the substance which we have; for both food, and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind (Mosiah 2: 21-32)?*

In, *The Word of Christ*, Ray Zinser said: We are born selfish. We are born ego centered. We are also born with the possibility of becoming Christ like...God created us so that He could lavish His love upon us. He created us so that we could respond by our love for Him and for all other persons...In Zion conditions of total righteousness we feel like God (one heart), we think like God (one mind) and we act out those feelings and thoughts (dwell in righteousness). In this condition there can be (no poor among them). *And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them (Genesis 7:23).*

Don Savage in his book, *Evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Day*, said: Zion is a body of people with deep profound love for each other through the Son of God. In Zion people will, without hesitation or reservation, be willing to lay down their lives for each other because they love one another. But this love cannot exist one sided. It is founded in the all piercing eye of Him who demands individual honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, kindness, humility and patience. And to this we have added the expectation of achieving mutual goals of eternal life. This love is developed through men as through the Holy Spirit they, on a Zion plane, sacrifice together, work together, pray together and otherwise worship together.

So now we have a framework of Zion's redemption. It will come about when men and women want Zion with all their hearts, work

toward that end through Christ's Church and strive to develop a profound love for their brothers and sisters and through Christ become loveable themselves. ...and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care (Genesis 7:23).

## Action Section



Ray Zinser in, *The Words of Christ*, said: Splitting the atom created consequences far beyond the immediate objective of the scientist. Even more powerful is the element of love in the universe. As Love is shared or “split off” it produces power that has no equal in the universe.

## 7 Steps to Sharing or “Splitting Off” Our Love:

1. **Love God and determine to put Him 1<sup>st</sup> in your life.** This will help you tap into a power source which enables you to Love Others.
2. **Study /Read in the Scriptures about Love and What Christ has to say about love.** This will put you on a solid foundation.
3. **Love yourself;** remember you have great worth in God's eyes. This will free you to love others as you love yourself.

4. **Ask God to guide and direct you to avenues of loving service.** We always need to seek His direction in our lives. He can open doors of loving service we are not aware of.
5. **Move out to love others** by making a list of loving acts you can accomplish in your own home/family.
6. **Move out within your church family to do loving acts.** This can be as simple as sending a card, making a phone call, visiting, taking in a meal to someone who needs it etc. Make your own list.
7. **Move out into your neighborhood and community with loving acts.** Here again this does not have to be hard. Look around you, who needs help, what organizations are already in place you can give your support to financially or in volunteering? Give to your local food bank. Speaking of that, how are Oak Grove's donations to the food bank? Are we sharing as we should with the poor and the needy? This is an important avenue to demonstrate our love for others.



**Let each of us put on  
Charity as a Mantle  
and go forth in  
Love and Service to Others.**