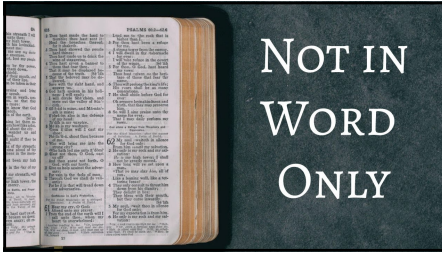


Settle in Your Hearts to be My Disciples “Love Not in Word or Tongue Only, But in Deed and in Truth”

by Elder Bill Jones



If we are to be effective disciples of Christ there is an attribute with whose particular qualities we need to acquaint ourselves. In **1 John 3:16**, it says we are to, “**Perceive the love of Christ**, because he laid down his life for us; and

we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” This suggests that the quality of our love for our fellowman should be such that, if needed, we would have the understanding and the will to lay down our life for a friend. Jesus said that the highest form of love is a sacrifice. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (**John 15:13**).

If we have determined to be disciples of Christ it should be set in our minds what is expected of us. Following the examples of Jesus’ love, we rarely would find ourselves literally called upon to lay down our lives; but, it is to be that following after Jesus does mean pursuing a life of self-sacrifice and servanthood. If we are to demonstrate the love of Christ in our relationship with our fellowman it will demand more than our words; it will require our actions as well.

“If we are to love in deed and in truth, we will have to get up and do something, and that will require our time, money, or other resources. Sincere love flows from our hearts and not just from our mouths; . . . it is a love that gives without counting the cost, without any thought of return, without first weighing whether or not such love is deserved. It is a love that is entirely without self-interest.” (D. Jackman, Living in the Love of God, Intervarsity Press.)

In **1 John 3:18**, the Apostle John suggests, “**My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue only; but in deed and in truth.**” From this, we gather that expressing feelings of love or affection through words alone, without backing them with actions, can be seen as insincere or superficial love. John presents the question, “Whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, (REFUSES TO HELP HIM) **how dwelleth the love of God in him?**” (**1 John 3:17**) James says: “Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, **deceiving your own selves**” (**James 1:22**). Then, in **James 2:16**, he gives this example with similar words to these: Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food and you say to them ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but you do nothing about their physical needs; what good are your words?

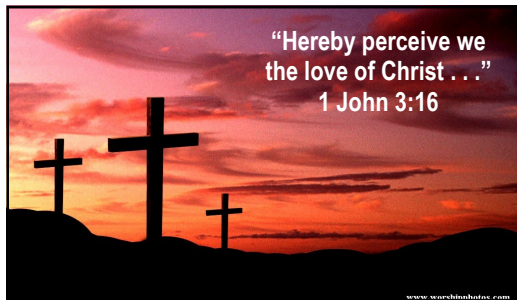
When John said to, “Love in deed and in truth,” the phrase “IN TRUTH,” emphasizes the need for sincerity in our expressions of love. It is not enough to perform service out of a feeling of obligation or a desire to do it for show and attention. Our actions should be consistent and motivated by a genuine desire to care for others. Our love should be more than just a feeling or a verbal statement; it should be a way of life which we live through our acts of service, and kindness and support. Genuine love and sacrifice is not about how we may appear to others, because of what we do or the words we say; the love and sacrifice we exhibit is simply to present a deep commitment to the well-being of others, whether it be physical or spiritual.



Where does this all lead?

It leads to God offering us the opportunity to participate in the building of His kingdom here on earth; but the response we have given has been a contrast in what we say in words and what we really do in action. We struggle to achieve success, seemingly unaware that the implementation of love and sacrifice is the only assurance we have that the kingdom will be built.

Christ has said we should love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength, all our mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. We should be aware that to do so is an act of preparation for further service. Arthur Oakman in his book, He Who Is, says that Christ instructs us to prepare ourselves in this way, because He seeks to manifest Himself in the strength of His Church and in the powers of His Priesthood. Through these avenues He can speak the things He desires to speak on behalf of humanity. To no other purpose have we been called as His Disciples than that we should lay down our lives (RENDER OUR SERVICE) for His sake.



We take too lightly the role we are to play as God's people in these latter days. We should remind ourselves of the fact that it is not the Lord's intent that His people should remain in a state of confusion and disarray while the world is in need of hope and is looking for help.

It has been said that in our time, great tribulations shall be among the children of men. However, it is also a time when God said He would preserve His people, and that righteousness and truth would sweep the earth as with a flood. The intent of such a display of power by God is twofold: (1) to bless the people in a time of need, and (2) to gather His elect from the four quarters of the earth. This is not because they fear the calamities coming upon the earth, but because they choose to be drawn together by their love of righteousness and truth. In addition, they will be willing to sacrifice in the service of their Lord by reaching out to win others and bring hope to a troubled world.

Arthur Oakman reminds us, “This is the Church of Jesus Christ. To no other people has been committed the task of the redemption of Zion. This world will be saved when **sufficient** men and women under the power of the Spirit of God shall come to know the cause of the world’s dilemma (LACK OF LOVE AND LACK OF WILLINGNESS TO SERVE). Under God, they shall come to know the remedy for that dilemma.

**“As our church continues to experience and practice
the principle of sacrifice,
the bonds of fraternity will grow stronger.**

**“We shall become an organization in which we
shall live our lives in one another.**

**“The sole purpose of this life we live in one
another is that it shall reach out to win others.**

**“To no other purpose have we been called than
that we should lay down our lives for Christ’s sake.”**

As Christ’s disciples we are to exhibit our love of righteousness and truth; we are to exhibit a willingness to make sacrifice in the service of our Lord, by reaching out to win others.

**Our desire this day should be to:
LOVE NOT IN WORD OR TONGUE ONLY,
BUT IN DEED AND IN TRUTH**

