

On love

(With kindness)

D E Wasake Esq.

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This message covers

- Love as lifeblood like sap in a plant.
- Understanding love, with kindness.
- Who is the Christian who acts kindly?

Information notice board

- 1) **About me.** Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent 20 years of my life being a hedonist – one who seeks pleasure for the sake of it, yet Love also brought pain! Since God humbled me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017, he has now overhauled my life to seek to be grounded in him to live by the Holy Spirit. You can read my full testimony [here](#):
- 2) **About these series.** The Lord Jesus gave me a single word “Blossom” as I was praying for a word for this season and series. This word will define a series of 12 topics he has also given me to tell his church about and build Christian character in his Holy Spirit. This lesson is one of those messages, but what does it mean to blossom?
- 3) **Pray for us!** Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.
- 4) **Subscribe to** our [YouTube Channel](#) and keep up with our videos which support the website.
- 5) **Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give, subscribe to)? Consider supporting:**

<https://www.compassion.com/>

“We are advocates for children, committed to Jesus Christ in all that we do.”

The above ministry/website has not paid us to provide this recommendation and so the views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the ministry promoted above. Likewise the views therein do not necessarily reflect those of this ministry.

Basics

What is love?

What is love? How we have asked ourselves this question for centuries and we have filled the answer with all sorts, primarily from the songs of our life time. *What is Love? Baby don't hurt me., don't hurt me, no moreⁱ; Love breaks your heart, makes it hard and fades away so easily.ⁱⁱ*

Jesus wants to grow us afresh and so to help a growing Christian understand this topic, The Lord Jesus gave me a word, for these series and the word is “Blossom”.

Now in these series of which this message is part 9, we are using an analogy of an orange tree growing to describe how a Christian matures in the Holy Spirit to the point of bearing lasting fruit, including this fruit of love and kindness.



So, when growing an orange tree from a seed, over the 5 years, there are 6 key stages it goes through:

1. Planting
2. Sprouting
3. Growing
4. Blossoming (Flowering)
5. Pollination
6. Bearing Fruit

Now, every growing orange tree has something called Sap.

Sap is the life blood of a plant. There are actually two kinds of sap in a plant:

- **Phloem (FLOWM)** sap is the more nutrient rich form, and flows from the leaves bringing sugars and hormones to nutrient-hungry parts of the plant, such as the stem and roots.
- **Xylem (ZY lum)** consists mostly of water, mineral elements and (low levels of) nutrients. It generally flows from the roots to the stems and leaves of plants.

Different vessels inside the plant stem, branches and leaves carry phloem and xylem fluids.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Lord is teaching us that like Sap is the life blood of a plant, moving from the top to the bottom and from the bottom to the top, Love is the blood of the Christian body and as the life of the creature is in its blood^{iv} so without love, the body is dead and the Christian is an empty sounding gong - like an empty love song, devoid of truth, but seemingly making noise, as mama said "empty tins Make the loudest noise". The bible supports this as follows:

*"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love [for others growing out of God's love for me], then I have become only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [just an annoying distraction]. Love endures with patience and serenity, **love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant.**" 1 Corinthians 13:1, 4 AMP*

This means all those who are speaking in tongues believing this to be evidence of the Holy Spirit, yet do not walk in love, then they are just an annoying distraction.

Love and kindness

Do you also notice that **love and kindness** seem to go hand in hand? In fact our anchor verse for these series goes as follows:

*But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is **love** [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

Galatians 5: 22-23 AMP

Now in previous part of these series we have already covered other aspects of the fruit of the Spirit such as joy, patience and gentleness (see: <https://www.shaweleroad.com/blossom>)....

..But for now, we are asking ourselves, **what is the quality of kindness as a fruit of the Spirit?**

*noun: **kindness**. the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.*^v

So then, when we take the two words together, love and kindness, we can understand it to be that:

- When you love someone – you are friendly, generous and considerate.

- Another way of putting it is this. To demonstrate that you love someone else, you act towards them with kindness and this means being friendly, generous and considerate.

The bible supports this interpretation with various examples.

Examples from the bible: Understanding love with Kindness

*“So, as God’s own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on a heart of compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness, and patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper]; bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive. **Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love**, which is the perfect bond of unity [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others].” Colossians 3:12-14 AMP*

*“For you, my brothers, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the sinful nature (worldliness, **selfishness**), but through love serve and seek the best for one another. For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is fulfilled in one precept, “**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF** [that is, you shall have an **unselfish** concern for others and do things for their benefit].” But if you bite and devour one another [in bickering and strife], watch out that you [along with your entire fellowship] are not consumed by one another. Galatians 5.13-15 Amp*

*“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love and unselfish concern for one another.**”” John 13:35 AMP*

In these examples, the Lord Jesus is painting for us a picture of Christian love:

Christian love is:

1. **Kind** – meaning friendly, generous, considerate by comparison to the world which is consumed with itself, is selfish and full of quarrelling and strife.
2. **Tangible**. What is the evidence of the Spirit of God resting on you? How does the world know you are Jesus’ disciples? It’s when we love one another. When we love others.
3. **United**. The objective of Christian love is always to mend, to build. It always forgives, it always strives to bring together, not to divide.

Jesus’ great lesson: Who is the Christian who acts kindly?

The well known parable of the Good Samaritan narrates this:

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”^[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b]”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10: 25 – 37 NIV.

In Jesus’ parable, we see love with kindness acting perfectly:

The religious leaders of the day (the priest and the Levite) were Jews, the ones who had received God’s law on Sinai ignored a man, but instead one from a hated group of people, people who were a mixture of Syrians and Babylonians, people who didn’t have the law of God, a Samaritan, instead acted with loving kindness. The Law of God wasn’t external but internal, in his heart. He was:

- *Friendly and considerate* – he was filled with compassion and ignoring his own needs, did first aid with oil and wine, then bandaged the man’s wounds and put him on his own donkey.
- *Generous* – He used his own time, staying the night with the man, and his own money to pay for a stranger to be accommodated in an inn at his expense and was willing to incur further unknown costs.

Our generation: The greatest love lesson

Most of us, from when we were children have learnt our greatest lessons on love from Music. Which is the greatest love song? An article in the Oprah magazine lists Whitney Houston’s “The Greatest love of all” to be one of the top 50 love songs of all time. ^{vi} Some of its lyrics go thus^{vii}:

I decided long ago

Never to walk in anyone’s shadows

If I fail, if I succeed

At least I’ll live as I believe

No matter what they take from me

They can’t take away my dignity

Because the greatest

Love of all is happening to me

I found the greatest

Love of all inside of me

The greatest love of all

Is easy to achieve

Learning to love yourself

It is the greatest love of all

Beloved as Whitney Houston was to many of our generation, “Queen/Princess of Soul” we venerated her but sadly her great love song got it wrong, the greatest love of all is not to learn to love yourself as Whitney sang, instead Jesus described it as follows:

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15: 13 (KJV).

A man or woman who loves the greatest doesn't love themselves. That is selfish, no they lay down their life for their friends, this is the greatest form of love and this laying down of life often comes when you have kindness - you are compassionate, friendly and generous.

This is a hard lesson I too have had to learn over the years since I encountered Christ. He has constantly challenged me to give up my life for others, for example:

- To love my Christian brothers and sisters – for example in the fellowship I lead every Wednesday at 6.00 pm, even when I don't feel like it.
- To give generously with finances to friends and strangers. We often feature in these series different ministries to support. The Lord has called me to give to many of these. My time, my money. That is what love is.
- He has called me to the ministry of love to my wife and kids. If I can't love them and set them a good example, how can I shepherd God's great flock?

Next steps

How will you practice the Christian picture of love?

1. **Christians love one another**, this is their calling card, their differentiator (John 13:35). How will you love other Christians?
2. **Christian love is practical** (1 cor 13) not empty words, because manifestations of the Spirit without love are empty and a waste of time. How will you love practically?
3. **Christian Love is a visible fruit** or the outer covering which comes with its seeds - the sisters of: kindness, compassion, humility, gentleness, patience. This is the true fruit of the spirit. The first manifestation is love .. and then comes the others like joy, patience, kindness. Are you manifesting the fruit? How can the Lord help you mature where you fall short?

If you want to know what you must do to get saved, the Lord says, come and see. Visit our page for more information: <https://www.shaweleroad.com/what-must-i-do-to-get-saved>

Let us pray.

How can I pray for you?

- Do you want to experience the love of Christ? He says “come” and “if you open the door I will come in and eat with you and you with me”^{viii}
- For you whose love has gone cold - if you love God who you have never seen but hate your brother who you have never seen, Gods love is not with you^{ix}, let’s pray for repentance.

Write to me so I can pray further for you: dwasake@shaweleroad.com

Be blessed.

END.

Notes

ⁱ <https://genius.com/Haddaway-what-is-love-lyrics>

ⁱⁱ <https://genius.com/Brian-mcknight-love-is-lyrics>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/landscape/sapfeed/ent-6004/>

^{iv} Leviticus 17: 11

^v <https://www.lexico.com/definition/kindness>

^{vi} <https://www.oprahmag.com/entertainment/g28435431/best-love-songs/>

^{vii} <https://genius.com/Whitney-houston-greatest-love-of-all-lyrics>

^{viii} Revelation 3: 20

^{ix} 1 John 4: 20