

THE TEST OF CHRISTIAN LOVE IS NOT SIMPLY FAILURE TO DO EVIL TO OTHERS LOVE ALSO INVOLVES DOING THEM GOOD AS WE HAVE SEEN CAIN IS OUR EXAMPLE OF FALSE LOVE HE TOOK HIS BROTHERS LIFE AND CHRIST IS THE EXAMPLE OF TRUE CHRISTIAN LOVE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US

SELF PRESERVATION IS THE FIRST LAW OF PHYSICAL LIFE BUT SELF SACRIFICE IS THE FIRST LAW OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

IN VERSE 16 JOHN USES THE WORD BRETHREN WHICH IS PLURAL AND IN VERSE 17 HE USES THE WORD BROTHER SINGULAR IT IS ONE THING TO SAY YOU LOVE THE BRETHREN AND TO NEGLECT TO HELP A SINGLE BROTHER

THIS IS WHAT JESUS HAD IN MIND IN THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN LUKE 10:25- 37 A LAWYER ASKED HIM THE QUESTION WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR JESUS FOCUSES HIS ATTENTION ON ONE MAN IN NEED AND CHANGED THE QUESTION TO WHOM CAN I BE A NEIGHBOR

GOD INTENDS FOR US TO DO FOR ONE WHAT WE WISH WE COULD DO FOR ALL IT IS THE PROPER WORKING OF EACH INDIVIDUAL PART EPH 4:16 BUILDING UP THE BODY IN LOVE

IN GAL 6:10 SAYS WHILE WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY LET US DO GOOD TO ALL MEN AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

VERSE 18 HERE JOHN USES AN AFFECTIONATE TERM ADDRESSING THEM AS A FATHER CALLING THE BRETHREN LITTLE CHILDREN INSTRUCTING THEM NOT TO LOVE WITH WORD OR WITH TONGUE BUT IN DEED AND TRUTH

THE OPPOSITE OF IN DEED IS IN WORD AND THE OPPOSITE OF IN TRUTH IS IN TONGUE IN JAMES 2:15-16 WE HAVE THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE IN WORD LOVE IS MORE THAN WORDS AND EVEN PRAYER IF YOU CAN MEET THE NEED AND YOU CLOSE YOUR HEART DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN YOU

YOUR LOVE FOR GOD WILL BE SEEN IN THE WAY YOU LOVE OTHERS IN VERSES 19-22 WHEN YOU LOVE IN DEED AND IN TRUTH YOU WILL HAVE ASSURANCE IF NOT IN VERSE 20 YOUR HEART WILL CONDEMN YOU WILL HAVE NO PEACE GOD KNOWS THE HEART THERE WILL BE NO REST IN DISOBEDIENCE

LUKE 6:38 APPLIES TO LOVE AS WELL AS MONEY FOR BY YOUR STANDARD OF MEASURE IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU IN RETURN WHEN YOU OBEY GOD YOU WILL HAVE ASSURANCE THAT YOUR PRAYERS WILL NOT BE HINDERED 1PETER 3:7

PSALM 66:18 SAYS IF I REGARD INIQUITY IN MY HEART THE LORD WILL NOT HEAR ME THE SECRET OF OBEDIENCE IS LOVE AND PSALM 37:4 SAYS WHEN WE DELIGHT OURSELVES IN THE LORD HE WILL GIVE US THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART WHEN OUR DELIGHT IS THE LOVE OF GOD OUR DESIRES WILL BE IN THE WILL OF GOD

V23-24 BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FAITH TOWARD GOD AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER LOVE TOWARD MEN WHICH CAN BE SUMMARIZED BY SAYING CHRISTIANITY IS FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE GAL 5:6

OBEDYING HIS WORD KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS IS ABIDING IN HIM AND HIM IN YOU IN JOHN 15 JESUS COMPARES HIS DISCIPLES AS BRANCHES OF A VINE WHICH DRAWS ITS STRENGTH FROM THE VINE AND PRODUCES FRUIT BUT IF IT SEPARATES FROM THE VINE IT DIES

OUR LIVES ARE TO BEAR THE FRUIT OF HIS LOVE THE FRUIT OF HIS SPIRIT WHOM HE HAS GIVEN US WHEN WE OBEY GOD AND LOVE THE BRETHREN THE SPIRIT GIVES US PEACE AND CONFIDENCE BUT WHEN WE GRIEVE THE SPIRIT HIS BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND CONFIDENCE ARE WITHDRAWN

JOHN 14:23 IF ANYONE LOVES ME HE WILL KEEP MY WORD AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM AND WE WILL COME TO HIM AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM JOHN 8:31-32 FREE FROM SIN TO LOVE OTHERS LIKE JESUS LOVED YOU BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS AND THEREBY FULFILLING THE LAW OF CHRIST