

Theme: The test of Love.

Text: I John 3:16---"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

Proposition: The test of christian love is that we give to those who need of our possessions and of ourselves, even to the point of sacrificing life itself, if necessary.

Dates written: July 14-22, 1962.

Dates and places used:

7-22-62 Montrose, Colo. Jan
Olathe, Colo. - 11 a.m.

6-26-66 - Blanca, Colo.

5-6-90 - SMALL PARTS FOR J.S. CLAY
[C. H. HENNING] FUMC, NEWNAN, GA.

_____ : the best of love.

_____ I love you
Love, that is the best
the form; and we want to
find our lives for the best.

_____ : the best of christian
love is to give to those who
need of our possession and of our
selves, even to the point of our
lives. It is the best, it is necessary.

_____ : July 14-22, 1943.

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Introduction:

1. Military radio communication usually is couched in cryptic, secretive terms. Instead of forthrightly calling for an organization by its name, military radio procedure usually will require that a code name be given for an organization. This insures secrecy, prevents identification by curious ears, is the theory. A battalion headquarters, for instance, may be called "windbreak," with its various companies or batteries called "windbreakable," "windbreak charlie," etc.. One National Guard battalion headquarters used as its call-word "racetrack." One day "racetrack" was calling one of its units in a nearby town. At that moment a local civic organization was having a social function at the local armory. The Guardsman on radio duty didn't realize that the switch was turned so as to send all radio communications throughout the armory, a convenience he used to enable him to hear the radio when he was working around the building. Soon the civic group heard booming

through the building the words, "Racetrack Alfa, this is Racetrack, over." By the time he could switch off the PA system several local citizens were "on his neck" to find out why the Guard was involved with racetracks! If the radio operator had tested his equipment as he turned it on he would have been spared some embarrassment and much jesting.

2. Testing is an important part of determining the worth and genuineness of almost all material things. Our government has a Bureau of Standards set up to test things for our protection. There are Federal and State agencies dedicated to seeing that products actually meet the standards claimed for them by their producers. Many private testing companies and organizations exist, for the benefit of the consumer. Testing is a vital part of our life. Because of it we can depend on food and clothing and machinery to be pretty much what it is purported to be.

3. When you turn from the material and physical products of mankind

AND SEEK TO TEST HIS ~~mental~~ and spiritual capacities and life, you have a harder, less-exact task. All sorts of IQ tests, scholastic aptitude tests, and other means have been devised to determine a person's mental abilities and gifts. These often are helpful, but they certainly are not conclusive.

4. In the realms of things that we call spiritual it is even more difficult to make a sure test of one's depth and sincerity. However as in other fields of life, in the spiritual there is certainly one test for those who are christians. Love is that test. We do not claim that it is always possible for one person to determine about another his sincerity of love. We do say that love is the one important test of a christian.

5. The Scripture which we read is our guide and help in our discussion here of love as the test, and we will refer to it near the end here for backing-up of our argument.

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I. A sign, or test of love, is that it is centered on something outside yourself.

1. At the various summer-time church camps and activities for young people romantic attraction is much in evidence. The counselors and other staff members at a given camp sometimes feel like little more than fairly-respectable policemen, as they find that much of their time is taken with enforcing rules which cause couples to be separated for periods of time; as they try to interpret ~~xxx~~ to some of the youth the limits to which good taste and christian ethics allow them to go in the matter of youthful courtships. You may not call this awakening boy-girl interest "love," but to them at the moment it certainly seems to be that. Certainly it has one characteristic of love, in that each is more concerned with someone else than with himself.

2. As love between men and women deepens this becomes even more so. The concern for ones beloved creates

much activity that is costly in time and in effort and in money to the lover. Even greater sacrifice of ones real interests and convenience to the desires of the beloved are typical of an increasingly-mature love.

3. Romantic love is centered on someone other than yourself; but it expects and receives rewards: a smile, an embrace, a kiss, adoration, complete surrender in marriage. To the lover these are more than ample rewards for that which he gives

4. More altruistic is love which is extended with little or no prospect of reward or return. Such love sometimes is given to worthwhile causes in such a way that other people term such a lover a selfless, great leader. Several personalities of American history can be cited here, people who risked life and fortune for a country or a cause that they thought right. Washington, Lincoln, Lee, and Wilson are such names -- and there are many others. Even today there are government officials who have given up wealth and position

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to serve their nation. In our churches still other people can be found who give sacrificially of their time, money and effort, unselfishly, that true religion and good ethics might pervade others ~~ain~~ home and community.

5. We need not illustrate or belabor the point further. By definition, backed up by ~~mak~~inds long and continued experience, we know that a test of love is that it is centered on something outside oneself

6. Is Christian love any different than this? If so, how? Lets look for

II. A test of Christian love.

1. Christian love certainly is like all other love in that it centers on something outside of self.

2. While living in a strongly Morman town several years ago we had many needy transients come to the door to ask for food, shelter, clothing, medical help. Most of them said that they had been refused

to have been given. In the
course of the investigation
it was found that the
subject had been in contact
with several individuals
and that these individuals
were in contact with
other persons.

It is noted that the
subject had been in contact
with several individuals
and that these individuals
were in contact with
other persons.

It is noted that the
subject had been in contact
with several individuals
and that these individuals
were in contact with
other persons.

II. List of individuals

1. Individuals in contact
with the subject in the
course of the investigation.

2. Individuals in contact
with the subject in the
course of the investigation.

help by the Mormon bishops and leaders before they came to the Protestant minister. They said that they were told that they were refused because they were not Mormons, and that the LDS church could take care only of its own.

3. The writer of our Scripture points out that love has been expected from one christian to another ever since the beginning of christianity-- love to ones own kind, such as the Mormons and some others practice very well. "For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." Just to "love one another," just to care for those who are fellow-christians or fellow-church members, is neither the test nor the limit of christian love. To interpret this Scripture so that you stop with that meaning is to misinterpret it.

4. Jesus helped fellow-Jews, but he also preached to and helped Samaritans and Greeks and Romans. To be in his footsteps in this matter of extending a helping, loving hand is to do all you can for any needy

person whom you have the power to help. Here, then, is one test of Christian love: a real sympathy and compassion for people; because they are people and each one is precious to the God whom you love.

5. The Scripture writer expresses his meaning along another line when he writes that Christians are unlike Cain who murdered his brother because his own deeds were evil and his brothers' were righteous. That is, Christians don't envy or dislike those who are better than themselves. Rather, they are thankful for the good character or good fortune of others.

6. In practicing their faith, however, christians may find that they are hated by people who disagree with them, perhaps who would prey on others were it not for the christians standing in their way. "Do not wonder, brethren, that the world hates you," says the Scripture.

7. There may come a time when we may have to go further~~x~~ than just being hated if we are to stand firm

in our faith. Every generation, it seems, produces its martyrs. Perhaps the Nazi situation before World War II, and the Communist domination now of so many countries, has produced the greatest modern day tests of christian faith for the greatest number of christians. We do know of current cases of christian martyrdom in our own lifetime. I believe that those who hold firm to their faith in such situations are christian, indeed. When we live or die, whichever it takes, to show others the meaning and power of christian faith we are following Christ. "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren," Here is a test of Christian love: to be willing to die in the service of others and of our Lord.

Conclusion:

1. We have restated the commonly known truth that to love is to center your thoughts and attention on another person or thing -- to ~~look~~ outward. This is the simplest, most universal test of love.

in our hearts, very much as we
 seem, and we are not alone
 in our hearts, and the
 foundation now of our country,
 has reached the very best
 by tests of Christian faith, for the
 greatest number of Christians,
 to form the current course of Christian
 worship in our own lifetime.
 believe that the world is
 to be in our own lifetime,
 Christian, indeed, when we live
 on life, but never in vain, to give
 others the meaning and power of
 their faith as we follow it.
 We raise the love, that is the
 form the life for us, and we make
 to love our own lives for the
 world is a test of Christian
 love: each willing to die
 the price of others' lives.

Conclusion:

1. We have reached the only
 from truth that love is to appear
 your thoughts and intentions of
 every one of us -- to be
 this is the simplest, most universal
 test of love.

2. We have gone further than this in our search for an understanding of christian love, and found that the test of christian love is that we give to those who need of our possessions and of ourselves, even to the point of sacrificing life itself if necessary.

3. The test of love is the degree of your concern for your brother-man. How does your love test out? Compare yourself with Christ. We are all imperfect, but we can strive to be like Jesus.

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Father, when we look at Jesus we feel so incomplete and imperfect. But in our hearts we do experience love, and with that beginning we would venture further on the pathway of ~~Christian~~ Christian love, giving ourselves as completely as needs be that thy children throughout the earth may know thee through thy Son.

In his name we pray.

Amen.

Father, when we look at Jesus
 we feel so incomplete and imperfect.
 But in our hearts we do experience
 love, and that's what we
 would rather have than any other
 of worldly things. We're
 a complete as much as that
 children throughout the world
 know the authority for
 in his name we pray.

Amen