

## UNCOVERING THE COVERING POWER OF LOVE

### **Romans 5:3-5, Proverbs 10:12, I Peter 4:7-8**

The spirit of this age (the world, the flesh, and the devil\_, the lies, fear, doubt, shame, and guilt they spew all aim at puncturing our hope...our hope is central to our experiencing love and exercising faith.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about <sup>4</sup>perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. **Romans 5:1-5**

#### **NASB**

- “This hope never disappoints, because God’s love for us floods our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” **V5 Weymouth**
- Hope shines the light on love which invites and energizes faith...faith that brings pleasure to God and provision to God’s people.
- We need to pray for and concentrate on having hope and love to give to each other and to those around us.
- Love, both vertical and horizontal is vital to the move of God that we pray for. It is a hope filled love that gives people the desire and flexibility to change their life.
- We experience the love and hope of God and then we respond towards others with compassion.

“<sup>6</sup>Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; <sup>7</sup>who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” **Exodus 34:6-7 NASB**

- God, who is love, says that being love, His first response to people is compassion...so love does cover!
- Love covers

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions. **Proverb 10:12 NASB**

- Note what 'hate does'...there is a connection between the root/front...between the 'source and the course'.
- Love covers...'covers' comes from a word meaning 'to fill up hollows'...love covers the holes in people's hole-ness.
- Love covers immaturity and 'no knowing' with patient well-measured help.

<sup>19</sup>My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,  
<sup>30</sup>let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. **James 5:19-20 NASB**

- Love covers the ones who need to return to the Lord with an open heart, an open mind, open arms, an open Bible and grace to help a person return.

<sup>7</sup>The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgement and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. <sup>8</sup>Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **I Peter 4:7-8 NASB**

- "For love covers a multitude of sins...forgives and disregards the offense of others." **v8 AMPC**
- Love throws a veil over a multitude of faults... **v8 Weymouth**
- Love covers a person, inconsistency and love covers what it doesn't understand with an emphasis on that which it does understand – senses to be something good.

So...what does love cover?

- Transgressions – unplanned sins, pre-planned sins...rebellion and disregard for the truth.
  - Sins – missing the mark.
  - Immaturities



**LOVE 'HOVERS' OVER UNTIL IT CAN HEAL HURTS...**

How does love cover?

- Love covers by being patient.
  - By being kind
  - By refusing to brag.
  - By refusing to be arrogant or conceited.
  - By not insisting on its own rights
  - By not keeping score.
  - By rejoicing in truth and righteousness.
  - By bearing, believing, hoping and enduring.
  - In a word, love covers by never failing to be love.

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us, because we are of the opinion and conviction that [if] One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup>And He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to and for themselves, but to and for Him who died and was raised again for their sake. <sup>16</sup>Consequently, from now on we estimate and regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards value]. [No] even though we once did estimate Christ from a human viewpoint and as a man, yet now [we have such knowledge of Him that] we know Him no longer [in terms of the flesh]. <sup>17</sup>Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! <sup>18</sup>But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]. <sup>19</sup>It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciling and restoring (of the restoration to favor). <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] *and* be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in *and* through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]. **2 Corinthians**

**5:14-21 AMPC**

- His love controls, urges, and compels us. **(v14)**
- We live for Him. **(v15)**
- We don't view people simply from a human point of view...**(v16)**
- We believe in redemption and restoration. **(v17-18)**
- We believe in reconciliation. **(v19-20)**
- We believe Jesus became sin for us so that His righteousness could be ours. **(v21)**

Pray! Love covers!