



# Tweets from Heaven

#8 II John: "I ask that we love one another" (II John vs 5)

## I. Introduction

Consider Matt. 22:37-39 and 1 Cor. 13:1-13

## II. Things Biblical love does

### A. Love bears all things...

1. "to bear" comes from the root meaning "roof". It carries the idea of protecting or preserving by covering something.
2. Godly love is meant to cover or ignore the sins of others. 1 Peter 4:8 "Love covers a multitude of sins."
3. This concept is illustrated in the life of Joseph. See Gen. 45:5-8

### B. Love believes all things...

1. "to believe" means to be firmly persuaded or completely reliant on what you believe. It is not just believe with your "head", it is believing with your "heart." It is an act of trust.
2. In Acts 5:14, a present participle of this verb is translated "believers."
3. Godly love refuses to yield to suspicions of doubt. It always believes the best about those we love.
4. This concept is illustrated in the life of Jonathan. See 1 Sam. 19:2 – 20:42.

### C. Love hopes all things...

1. "to hope" means to expect the best
2. Godly love expects the best from those they love. Love always expects that grace will conquer.
3. This concept is illustrated in the attitude of Barnabas. See Acts 13:13 and 15:36-40.

### D. Love endures all things...

1. "to endure" means to "remain under", to persevere under a great weight.
2. Paul stresses this steadfast perseverance over and over again. See Rom. 5:3, 8:25, 2 Cor. 12:12 and 1 Thes. 1:3.
3. Godly love faces tribulation (of all kinds) with courage.
4. This concept is illustrated by Job. See Job 1:20-22.

5. Consider also Calvary and the 6 hours of agony Christ endured for us. See Heb. 12:2.

### III. Things biblical love does not do

- A. Love...is not rude, it is proper ("Does not act unbecomingly")
1. "Unbecomingly" – to behave in an ugly, indecent, rude manner. It's the opposite of "proper" behavior. (See 1 Cor. 7:35-36)
  2. Real love honors, respects, shows courtesy (even chivalry).
  3. Note how Jesus quietly dealt with the woman who touched His hem (Matt. 9), the woman who washed His feet with her tears (Luke 7) and even the woman caught in adultery (John 8).
- B. Love is not selfish
1. "Seeks its own" – focuses on the things that belong to self: pleasure, profit, honor.
  2. Matt. 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."
  3. Seeking God is the antithesis of seeking self. See Deut. 4:29, Ps. 105:4, Acts 17:27.
  4. Notice how the children of Israel sought the Lord in 2 Chron. 11:16, 14:7, 17:4, 26:5
- C. Love is not irritable
1. "It's not easily provoked" – is not irritated by a wrong or an insult. Is not supersensitive or easily annoyed.
  2. See the example in Acts 15:39 – the irritability between Paul and Barnabas.
  3. The principle is covered in Prov. 17:14 "The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out."  
See also Prov. 20:3, 25:8, 26:17, 2 Tim. 2:14
- D. Love keeps no record of wrong suffered
1. "Reckons not the evil" – literally means to not occupy one's mind with calculations, do not make numerical countings of wrongs done to you.
  2. Love forgets to charge for any wrong done. It does not keep score.
  3. The same word is used for God's pardoning of our sin and imputing our guilt.  
See Ps. 32:2, Rom. 4:8, 2 Cor. 5:19
- E. Love takes no pleasure in what is wrong
1. "Does not rejoice in righteousness"  
"Rejoice" – share in joy  
"Unrighteousness" – that which is wrong, does not meet with God's standard of justice.

"Truth" – integrity, virtue

2. Takes no pleasure in scandal or gossip. Prov. 17:9
3. Love is never glad when others do wrong. Love is eager to believe the best.

The principle found in Rom. 15:1 "Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves."

Gal. 6:1 "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted."

1 Pet. 4:8 "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins."

#### **IV. So what? Some principles to consider regarding our love for others:**

- A. We have a pattern to follow. See John 13:15, Phil 2:5, and Col. 3:13

Real love covers, it does not expose. Real love chooses to believe the best in others. Real love stays around for the long run.

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#### **Discussion Questions**

1. How is the world's definition of love different than a biblical understanding of love?
2. What are some of the "all things" Paul is referring to? What are they in your life?
3. Which aspect of "loving" is hardest for you?