

“Compelled”

Shadrach Means 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

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Key Words: love

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

Limited Love (loving those that love you)

Matthew 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, *‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’*”

- You should notice in your Bible that “You shall love your neighbor” is italicized and “*hate your enemy*” is not.
- Underline “*You shall love your neighbor*” because that is the emphasis of this passage
- Jesus is quoting
 - **Leviticus 19:18** “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but ***you shall love your neighbor as yourself***. I am the Lord.”
- The Jews believed and taught that their neighbors were only other Jews and that everyone else was their enemy.
- Jesus corrects this teaching and teaches us the way we are to treat those that we define as our enemies.

Unlimited Love (Loving those that don’t love you)

Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, *love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*”

- Remember back to what Jesus already told them about being persecuted.
 - **Matthew 5:11-12** ¹¹ “*Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.* ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
- This relates to people taking advantage of you, talking poorly about you (backstabbing, name calling, etc.)

Luke 10:25-37 ²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “*What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?*” ²⁷ So he answered and said, “***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,*** and ***your neighbor as yourself.***” ²⁸ And He said to him, “*You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.*” ²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, (*he knew*

it but didn't do it) said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- Jesus answered by telling the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descends approximately 3,000 feet in about 17 miles. It was a dangerous road to travel, for robbers hid along its steep, winding way. A priest, one expected to love others, avoided the wounded man, probably a fellow Jew.
- Levites were descendants of Levi but not of Aaron, and they assisted the priests (Aaron's descendants) in the temple.
- Jesus used a despised Samaritan to show love to the Jew that believed only other Jews were his neighbors.
- We can become like those legalistic Jews and only talk to other Christians, only show love to other Christians
- **Romans 13:8-10** ⁸ "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."
- **Galatians 5:14-14** ¹⁴ "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!"
- **James 2:8-10** ⁸ "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; ⁹ but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors."

The result (We will be like Him)

Matthew 5:45-48 ⁴⁵ *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;* for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

- The result of loving our enemies and treating them with love is that we will be acting like Jesus.
- When I love my enemy in action I am acting like my Father in Heaven.

- **Romans 5:10** “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- **Deuteronomy 22:1-3** "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray, and hide yourself from them; you shall certainly bring them back to your brother. ² And if your brother is not near you, or if you do not know him, then you shall bring it to your own house, and it shall remain with you until your brother seeks it; then you shall restore it to him. ³ You shall do the same with his donkey, and so shall you do with his garment; with any lost thing of your brother's, which he has lost and you have found, you shall do likewise; you must not hide yourself.
- *Kindness to one's enemy* - giving him food and water is like heaping burning coals on his head (quoted by Paul in Rom 12:20). Sometimes a person's fire went out and he needed to borrow some live coals to restart his fire. Giving a person coals in a pan to carry home "on his head" was a neighborly, kind act; it made friends, not enemies. Also the kindness shown in giving someone food and water makes him ashamed of being an enemy, and brings God's blessing on the benefactor. Compassion, not revenge, should characterize believers (cf. Proverbs 24:29). Alternately, light on this passage may come from an Egyptian expiation ritual, in which a person guilty of some wrongdoing would carry a pan of burning coals on his head as a sign of his repentance. Thus treating one's enemy kindly may cause him to repent.
- *Love distinguishes the believer from the non-believer.*
 - **Matthew 5:46** “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”
- *When we love our enemies it frees us*
 - **Philippians 1:12-14** ¹² But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”
- *When we love our enemies can bring them to salvation*
 - **Romans 2:4** “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

*“To return evil for good is demonic,
to return good for good is human,
and to return good for evil is divine”*