

## Love One Another

Leviticus 19:17-18

April 10, 2005

### Introduction

1. ILLUS – “The Little Boy and the Poor Pastor”
2. Today, we are going to study a couple of verses from a chapter that has been called the Mosaic form of the Sermon on the Mount.
3. By doing so, we are going to discover God’s desire for us as we live with one another.

### ***READ – Leviticus 19:17-18***

### Context

1. The key to understanding this chapter is found in verse 2,

**Leviticus 19:1-2**, “Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.’”

2. God is holy, that is set apart from evil.
3. He alone is the standard of purity and righteousness.
4. God expects His people to live in a manner that is consistent with His character.
5. The Apostle Paul put it this way in **Ephesians 5:1**, “be imitators of God.”

**Transition – So, how does God want us to imitate Him when it comes to our relationships with others?**

## I. **Make No Room In Your Heart For Hate(17)**

### A. Hate is the opposite of love

1. To hate is to *abhor, detest, loathe, be hostile, to have a feeling of open hostility and intense dislike.*
2. Love draws and unites, but hate separates and keeps distant.

### **ILLUS – Joseph and his 10 brothers**

**Genesis 37:3-4**, “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.”

3. We are called to hate what is evil

**Amos 5:15**, “Hate evil, love good.”

- a. In essence, be set apart, distant,
  - b. Do not let it become a breeding ground for sin
4. Yet, we must remember that even righteous anger can turn into fleshly anger if allowed to linger long enough

**Ephesians 4:26-27**, “Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil the opportunity.”

### B. Hate will master you

1. The Law is not dealing with an external action, but an internal condition
2. No matter how hard we try to hide it, hate won’t stay hidden

**Proverbs 26:24-26**, “He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart. When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. Though his hatred covers itself with guile, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.”

3. Hate leads to hypocrisy

**1 John 14:20**, "if someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

4. Hate leads to Scripture twisting

**Matthew 5:43-45**, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

**ILLUS – God's warning to Cain**

**Genesis 4:8** – "sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

*Transition: So how do we master hate when we have been hurt?*

**II. Take God's Word To Heart (17b-18b)**

**A. Reprove to restore relationship (17b)**

1. To reprove is to prove, decide, judge, or confront a neighbor who is in sin
2. To reprove is to follow God's example of love

**Proverbs 3:12**, "For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, even as a father, the son in whom he delights."

3. Two things to consider before correcting
  - a. Is love or anger motivating you?

**James 1:20**, "for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."

- b. Is your desire to shame the person into repentance or gently restore?

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**, "And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."

**ILLUS – Pastor Chuck Smith restores a fallen brother**

4. Two verses to remember when being corrected  
**Proverbs 27:5-6**, "Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are kisses of an enemy."

**Psalms 141:5**, "Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me; it is oil upon the head; do not let me refuse it,"

5. Failure to reprove makes us an accessory to sin

**ILLUS – The high priest Eli and his wicked sons (1 Sam. 3:10-18)**

**Note:** *Often people fail to confront because of fear of rejection. But we must remember that we will never gain a thing by ignoring the issue. Victory is achieved when we take the risk in seeking restoration.*

6. If reject, then we have done our part before the Lord  
**Romans 12:18**, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."

**B. Refuse to take revenge (18a)**

1. This is to avenge, entertain revengeful feelings, pay harm with another harm (Pay back time!)
2. Vengeance is not ours for the taking

**Deuteronomy 32:35**, "Vengeance is Mine"

3. Our battles belong to God, He will fight for us

**Romans 12:19-21**, "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' 'But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

**ILLUS – Absalom waited two years to kill Amnon, 2 Samuel 13**

**C. Never bear a grudge (18b)**

1. This can mean to guard or tend a vineyard
2. But it also means to keep or harbor wrath/anger
3. Keeping a record of wrongs reveals a grudge

ILLUS – Kristi’s conversation with Muriel Cook

1 Corinthians 13:5, “Love... does not take into account a wrong suffered.”

NOTE: Bearing a grudge is a burden that consumes our lives. How much time and energy do we waste on bearing a grudge?

### III. Make Room In Your Heart For Love (18c)

#### A. Love has many facets

1. Overview in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
2. No partiality

James 2:8-9, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself, ... but if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

3. Without hypocrisy

Romans 12:9, “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.”

4. Does no wrong

Romans 13:8, 10, “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.”

5. In deeds not just words

1 John 3:17-18, “But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

#### B. We must love our neighbor

1. But, who is my neighbor?
2. Jesus answered the question

Luke 10:29-37 – Love the Samaritan, your neighbor. But that was problem, Jews hated Samaritans

#### C. We must love as Christ loved us

1. As yourself?

Ephesians 5:28-29, “So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church

#### 2. A New Commandment

John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Question: Why didn’t God command Israel to love one another as He had loved them?

- They couldn’t!
- This standard is a fruit of the Holy Spirit!

#### 3. Now, we can love like this because God loves us

1 John 4:19, “We love, because He first loved us.”

### Conclusion

Do you have a testimony when it comes to love?

Or has hate compromised love?

Waiting to payback evil for evil?

Able to recite a record of wrongs without missing a detail?

It is a heavy load to bear and its fruit is deadly.

Come to the Lord and let Him remove the shackles so that you can be free to love again.