

# The Power Of Love

**Intro:** As a basis for our study turn to Rom. 12:9-10, 20-21 <sup>19</sup> *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.* <sup>20</sup> *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;... Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.* <sup>21</sup> *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.* Of all the forces in the world, love is the most powerful. It is more powerful than any physical force: sarcasm, rebuke, argument, hate, etc. Let us, in this lesson, consider the power of love from three angles.

## I. THE POWER OF LOVE ON OURSELVES.

**A. Every emotion, whether it be good or bad, that we experience reacts upon us.**

**B. The man we hate suffers as the result of our hate, but they do not suffer as much as we do.**

1. We can not hurt a brother without hurting ourselves.
2. Hatred is a mental poison which destroys the finest qualities of the soul.

**C. The man we love is blessed by our love, but they are not blessed to the degree we are.**

1. Acts 20:35 <sup>35</sup> *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
2. We cannot help our fellow man without helping ourselves.
3. Though our love may fail to touch the enemy's heart, it is never in vain.
  - a. It fulfills the law; Rom. 13:8-10 <sup>8</sup> *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.* <sup>9</sup> *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* <sup>10</sup> *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*
  - b. It makes us like God.
    - (1) Mat. 5:44-45 <sup>44</sup> *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;* <sup>45</sup> *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*
    - (2) 1 John 4:8 <sup>8</sup> *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*
  - c. Thus, fitting us for heaven.

## II. THE POWER OF LOVE ON OTHERS.

**A. When others become aware of our love, happy results follow. Let us notice four.**

**B. It overcomes.**

1. Love disarms the foe, hushes the cynic, puts to shame the enemy.
2. When drastic methods fail, love wins.
  - a. Rom. 12:21 <sup>21</sup> *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*
  - b. Pro. 15:1 <sup>1</sup> *A Soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

**C. Love draws them.**

1. While hatred drives people from us, love draws them to us.
2. Jer. 31:3 <sup>3</sup> *The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*
3. John 12:32 <sup>32</sup> *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

**D. It binds them.**

1. Love not only draws people, it also binds people to us.
2. It is the cement, the bond.
  - a. Col. 2:2 <sup>“2</sup> That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;”
  - b. Col. 3:14 <sup>“14</sup> And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”
3. It is the element that preserves the unity of God’s people.

**E. It enables; it encourages.**

1. Love is what makes life worth living.
2. The love of one person will cause a man to desire to live.

**III. THE POWER OF LOVE ON GOD.****A. Love causes the great Spiritual Force in the universe to operate in our favor.****B. Love reaches up and takes hold of the throne of the Almighty and moves Him.****C. God makes His abode in the loving heart; John 14:23** <sup>“23</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”**D. By deeds of love, the divine memory is refreshed; Heb. 6:10** <sup>“10</sup> For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”**E. To those who love God, He makes all things work together for good; Rom. 8:28** <sup>“28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.”

**Conclusion:** Though we are weak, a mighty force is within our grasp. Let us take it and use it: not selfishly, for when selfishness enters in it ceases to be love. Life is sweeter, the circle of our influence is wider, and we are more powerful when love motivates us. Love makes us kings in our realm. Gal. 5:6 <sup>“6</sup> For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”