**Love will Cover a Multitude of Sins**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Peter 4:8-11**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 5, 2023**

**1 Peter 4:8-11**

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."**

Saints, Mutual love, support, and encouragement would also be a great defense. No Christian is an island; no one is alone.

When believers experience deep love from the fellowship, they have the human network of support that can help them through any crisis.

The same thought as love covers a multitude of sins is found in:

**Proverbs 10:12**

“Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love covers all offenses.”

**Proverbs 17:9**

“He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends”

**James 5:20**

“let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins”

**1 Corinthians 13:4**

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up”

Saints, Peter may have been quoting from this or from a proverb of his day that was based loosely on this verse. This does not mean that love ignores, overlooks, or tries to hide sin.

Instead, Peter probably was thinking back to his words that the believers should live the rest of their lives according to God’s will and not human desires.

As believers, they should stop sinning. The “covering of sins,” then, is the ability that believers have to forgive one another because Christ has forgiven them.

Love works as a shock absorber, cushioning and smoothing out the bumps and irritations caused by fellow believers.

**Colossians 3:14-15**

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

**1 John 4:7-11**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**John 13:34-35**

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.**

Saints, to cheerfully share one’s home is different from social entertaining. Entertaining focuses on the host—the home must be spotless;

the food must be well prepared and abundant; the host must appear relaxed and good-natured. Sharing the home, in contrast, focuses on the guests.

Their needs—whether for a place to stay, nourishing food, a listening ear, or acceptance—are the primary concern. This can happen in a messy home.

It can happen around a dinner table where the main dish is canned soup.

Believers should not hesitate to share with those who need a meal or a place to stay just because they are too busy or not wealthy enough to entertain.

Hospitality is a strong expression of love, which Peter already commanded the believers to show.

**Philippians 2:1-8**

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

**Philippians 2:14-15**

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world…

**Hebrews 13:1-2**

1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

**10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

Saints, each person has received one or more spiritual gifts from God—a talent or ability empowered by the Holy Spirit and able to be used in the ministry of the church.

Spiritual gifts help God’s people to serve and love one another and continue the work of spreading the gospel. Some of these great varieties of gifts are listed in the following verses. Here are a few of the different and are by no means exhaustive gifts found in Scripture.

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**Romans 12:6-8**

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ…

Saints, when believers humbly recognize their partnership in the body of Christ, their gifts can be used effectively.

Saints, when believers use their gifts in humble service to others, God’s generosity can flow through them.

The gifts God gives believers are as varied and many-faceted as are the believers themselves. As God’s grace varies in its dealings with people,

so God’s gifts (given because of his grace) are varied in their administration of his grace as Christ’s body on earth.

To manage them well means not to hide the gifts, but to use them as they were meant to be used—serving and building up the body of Christ.

**11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Saints, Peter encouraged the believers to use their gifts. Men and women with gifts that required being a speaker must be responsible with what they said, speaking as though God himself were speaking through them.

**Romans 12:1-3**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Saints, likewise, those gifted with abilities that centered on helping others also have a responsibility—to serve not in their own strength but with all the strength and energy that God supplies.

Saints, if believers serve in their own strength alone or in order to look good to others, they will begin to find serving a wearisome task.

But to serve with God’s strength is to be able to go above and beyond, and to do so for one purpose:

God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ. When believers use their gifts as God directs (to help others and build up the church),

others will see Jesus Christ in them and will glorify him for the help they have received.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**