

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:7-8 No2 KJV



Fervent: Ardent; very warm; earnest; excited; animated. (Webster's 1828) The New Testament word "charity" is usually the Greek word, "agape." That is; "love, affection or benevolence; specifically (plural) a love feast." (Strong's Greek lexicon) "Agape" is the Greek word Christians most often used to describe God's unconditional

Love for His own or Divine Love. There are other Greek words for love; *eros*, physical intimacy, and *phileo*, brotherly or friend love, but there's love, but then there's "fervent" love. There's the charity of humanity to man, like feeding the hungry and caring for the sick and dying, and then there's the "love of the brethren"; unconditional God-like Love. I don't have to LIKE you to LOVE you. Love is an action, not an emotion. Loving you is a command from our Lord Jesus Christ. "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye Love one another; as I have Loved you (He gave His Life), that ye also Love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have Love (agape) one to another." How does Christ love? He loves first. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...but God commendeth His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We love Him, because He FIRST Loved us." Believers can do no less. We must be careful not to be caught up in the perverted interpretation the wicked world puts on love. Concerning unbelievers we are instructed, "Love thy neighbour as thyself. Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the Law and the prophets." As the old Quaker said to the intruder, "I would not harm the for the world, my friend, but thee art standing where I am about to shoot!" God so Loved the world He gave His Life, but He'll still send unbelievers to the Lake of Fire! "God IS Love!" But Love does not tolerate nor condone sin! Obedience to God's Word is the evidence of faith: Disobedience is the evidence of unbelief! As Jesus was addressing His disciples He said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends." He had a different affection for them. He was not addressing the multitudes here. He had compassion for the multitude, but He didn't call them "friends." The Apostle Peter writes to believers to have, "fervent charity AMONG YOURSELVES." Fervency is passionate determination. Fervency cannot be faked. Our "love of the brethren." must be almost an obsession. I cannot love fellow believers with fervency, unless I first love Jesus with fervency; all my mind and might. Then I will see what He sees and love what He loves. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in OBEYING THE TRUTH through the Spirit unto (then comes) unfeigned love of the brethren (Gr. philadelphia), see that ye Love (Gr. agape) one another with a pure heart (mind) fervently." Bitterness, jealousy, and gossip defile our purity and make us disobedient children. I can't love purely with an impure heart. God will say, "No!" to our prayers if we are disobedient. "If I regard iniquity (disobedience) in my heart (mind) the Lord will NOT hear me." That is, think sinful thoughts or disobey God. Worry is doubt and doubt is disobedience! "TRUST in the LORD with ALL thine heart (thoughts); and lean not unto thine own understanding. In ALL thy ways acknowledge (think of) Him, and He (His Word) shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil." You will disobey if you don't FEAR God! When you disobeyed as a child, did you run to dad and tell all, or did you avoid him out of fear of His displeasure? I know I did! Fear of Dad kept me righteous!

Loving God and doing right,
Will cleanse my soul and heal my sight,
It'll matter not my brother's blight,
My heart will care with God's own might. ~CGP

"Fervent charity" is pure "unfeigned love." No believer is of any less value than any other to God: He Loves equally and justly: So should we. If you are afraid to trust God's Word you will burn in the Lake of Fire forever! "But the FEARFUL, AND UNBELIEVING, and the abominable (perverts), and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and ALL LIARS, shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the Second Death." The KING is coming: Be ready!

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 KJV

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