

Gal. 5: ~~25~~ 14-15, the entire law is summed up in a single command, Love your neighbor as yourself. If you keep on biting and devouring each other watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." Here he is very definitely speaking to Christians-- immediately and following verses that deal very specifically with Christians.

We have in Colossians and in Ephesians those wonderful verses that speak of the church as the body of Christ, and speak about every sineuw, every part of the body works together for God's purposes. Each part of the body should show deep and true love for each other part. That love does not consist merely in being nice to it or giving it whatever they want. It involves giving them what is for their good.

When I was a student in Princeton Seminary, which was then a very orthodox institution, one of our students who was two years ahead of me took a church on Long Island. He took some graduate work at Union Seminary. He came down and visited us in Princeton and he told how he took a course in present religious tendencies. He said, the spirit of love that professor showed, he could not help but greatly admire him. He said he didn't think the man had the doctrines that we hold, but he had such a marvellous spirit of love. He would discuss one Christian group and another Christian group, and various non Christian groups and various sects and he found good in all of them! He liked this about this one and this about this one and Oh, how he was impressed with the spirit of love the professor showed. Until the last one he discussed was fundamentalism! And all the spirit of love disappeared. He said this was an eddy in the current of progress. This was something that was holding humanity back. He said he just could not be too vituperative in his criticism of fundamentalism.

The body of so-called Christians has always had Satan trying to get into it and get a hold of and destroy its testimony. Love of God does not involve being nice and charitable toward those who are trying to undermine the teachings of Christ. I've known of churches where pastor will come in and he is very nice and pleasant fellow. But the next thing he will undermine this Christian doctrine, then that and then another. And people will say, Oh he has such a marvellous spirit of love! Such a marvellous attitude. What's the difference if he doesn't believe certain of these things?

The next thing you know the church has been written off into complete modernism and unbelief. I've seen that happen in church after church in the course of the years. True love involves removal of destructive elements where possible. True love involves protection, not just emotion. Love to the brethren--I wish I had more time for this--is something that needs great emphasis. It is important that it is love that is seeking to do, not merely seeking to feel. Love that is seeking to stand for what God desires us to stand for. Not just standing for certain abstract ideas simply but because the eternal welfare of those who are subjected to it can be affected by that which creeps in and against which John the Apostle of Love speaks so very strongly in his Gospel and in his Epistles.