



The Work and Weariness of Love

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- Love, because it is the most powerful emotive motivator, comes with a price. It costs something to love another. The one who loves must pay a price for love.
 - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”
 - John 14:31 - “But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do.”

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- 2Cor. 11:28 - “besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”
- Judges 16:15-21

The Work and Weariness of Love

- Loving others in spite of themselves is work that over time can generate a great deal of weariness
- The price that is paid for loving others as God has loved us is very high, because it is a higher form of love that does not demand reciprocity or reward, the kind of love that does not take into account the worthiness or unworthiness of the person loved

The Work and Weariness of Love

- Rom. 5:6-8 - “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- 1John 3:16 - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”
- Prov. 10:12 - “Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.”
- Prov. 17:17 - “A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”

The Work and Weariness of Love

- Whether loving a family member or friend that has changed toward you or has become chronically ill, or loving a disciple who has left the faith, or loving a fellow human being whose conduct makes him or her unlovable, it will be a work that has the potential to weary our spirits and harden our hearts. What price does unconditional love demand?

Without Pretense

- Rom. 12:9-15 - “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”
- 1Peter 1:22 - “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart”

Without Pretense

- How did Jesus look at the mob mocking Him on the cross and say, “Father, forgive them”?
 - That is how we will come to love those who sometimes act unlovable.
 - Our own sins are the barrier to loving others in this fashion; it is not the sins they have committed that make it hard to love them, it is the sins we have committed and the residual effects of those sins that make it hard to love others unconditionally

Without Pretense

- 1Cor. 13:4-7 - “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
- 1Tim. 1:5 - “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith”

In Pursuit Of Good For Others

- Phil. 2:1-8 - “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.”

In Pursuit Of Good For Others

- Rom. 15:1-3 - “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

In Pursuit Of Good For Others

- Love cannot be detected in the absence of service to others
 - How much of my time is spent serving my desires versus needs of others?
 - How many of my efforts...?
 - How much of my money...?
 - Do I make suggestions based on benefit to myself or others?

In Pursuit Of Good For Others

- 1John 4:9 - “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.”
- 1John 3:16-18 - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

Diligently Active

- No time clock; no sacrifice too great
 - 1Thes. 2:7-12 - “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

Diligently Active

- Not a show of love, but based on long term service to others
 - Acts 20:36-38 - “And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more.”
 - Acts 20:27, 31 - “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God... 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

Diligently Active

- Do I seek opportunities to go above and beyond the call of duty or whiningly justify the minimum acceptable action?
- Honorable love does not exist in the presence of self interested ease. It is work that extracts a toll of weariness and risk
- It requires that we either move out of our comfort and safety zone and get busy, or else stop deceiving ourselves and others with professions of love.
- At the end of a good days work, we are tired, but it is a good kind of tired. At the end of a lifetime of sacrifice for love, we are weary, but it is a good kind of weariness.

Diligently Active

- Phil. 2:17 - “Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.”
- 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”