

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 49

**SUBJECT: LOVE- 8/2/15**

## Love One Another

"Love one another" I John iii.23  
I have been using "love one another" this week to be sure I love all, seeing the perfect child of God.

Do I really love another even if they are rude on the phone or aggressive in the grocery store? These are the tests that are sometimes over looked.

Thank you Lesson writer for this good lesson and the reminder to love one another and to forgive. \*\*\*

Mrs. Eddy gives us a good test in the lesson this week: "If selfishness has given place to kindness, we shall regard our neighbor unselfishly, and bless them that curse us..."

**BLESS THEM THAT CURSE US!** Do I look with compassion on those who curse me and even want to harm me? Do I wish to free them from the mesmerism that causes them not to feel the love of God? Can I forgive them their attempts to harm me? Can I see through obnoxious personality traits to meet the need and bring out what is good and true in my brother?

Or is my own personal well-being more important than seeing my brother's need and supplying it?

Jesus' example could not be clearer. He forgave even those who nailed him to the cross, for "they know not what they do." Then he proved for all time that "Love alone is life." (MBE) Wonderful lesson! \*\*\*\*\*

*Love one another 1 John 3:23*

These simple words but profoundly important words if spiritually understood would solve all world problems; be it health, economic, or moral.

There is NO problem that cannot be solved if Love is applied! To think that this is by-passed, while billions are spent with great human effort for non-lasting and little effect is disheartening.

Sometime mankind will wake up to see how we've been fooled by error's empty disguise. It is Love that reigns, it is Love that is forever present and has all the power!! \*\*\*\*\*

Let it be our happiness this day to add to the happiness of those around us, to comfort some sorrow, to relieve some want, to add some strength to our neighbor's virtue. Channing. \*\*\*\*\*

## In A Perfect Way, With A Perfect Heart

In the Responsive Reading, Ps. 101, we read: "... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." and "...he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me."

I thought the French Bible had an interesting translation of this.

The French goes something like this: "I will walk in the integrity of my heart", and in the later passage "he that walketh in the way of integrity..."

The definition of integrity includes, "moral soundness or purity; incorruptness; uprightness; honesty...with a special reference to uprightness in mutual dealings." This speaks to the Golden Rule, *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*--that is love.

I thought it was also interesting that the writer mentioned "within my house". It made me think of how many people put on a show to others outside their homes, but when they get home, all hell breaks loose, hidden from others so as not to tarnish their image. It is two ways of walking!

To "walk in a perfect way", we must have integrity no matter where we are, and have nothing to hide. Then we are useful to God! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! Mrs. Evans would often refer to this as "behind closed doors." She emphasized the great danger of doing, saying, and acting in a way you would not want others to see or to hear...of being duplicitous. And, of course, the real danger is thinking you can hide anything from God! It is a great relief to put off this false sense of man for the new and to have all your ways acceptable unto the Lord. \*\*\*\*\*

I'm reminded of something Mrs. Evans once said: Anything you have to say should be able to be told at the front of the church to all the congregation. Wow, that gave me pause! I think of it now and then; it helps to prevent or curtail unloving chatter or gossip, and get thought back on track. \*\*\*\*\*

## Forgiveness

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another....." Hebrews

While reading the Lesson Sermon this week, it has become clear to me that what I thought to be forgiveness may not be adequate in God's command. So, I need to take a good look at myself and include love in forgiving the actions of someone. I must do this or I am not obeying God and Christ's command. I think the following words are from a hymn: Oh Father give me a loving and contrite heart, that I may loving be... \*\*\*\*\*

How true! Love is forgiveness! If Love is seeing another correctly; then you can forgive when you impersonalize the wrong no matter how real it appears to attach itself to someone. Rebuke the error but see its nothingness!!

When I remembered that God's child is His expression with no quality unlike God, I could then

humbly separate error from my thought of man and forgive. See the nothingness of the wrong done, give it no channel to use and you can see the end of it, ...you then will see that right where the error appeared so real had been Love, which fills all space. \*\*\*\*\*

## Ready To Forgive?

Ready to forgive?

Were it not for forgiveness, I don't know where I would have ended up. Many times I have needed second and third chances to try again, do it better, get it right. At times, when I realize I am given another chance, I thank God for His love that "endureth forever". A little golden rule goes a long way; something that has helped me, when it is my turn to forgive and I may think it is more convenient not to, is that the "earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof", and that forgiveness has a divine purpose, for growth in grace, an opportunity to sincerely strive for more of the divine character, and not to enable irresponsible and selfish living. \*\*\*\*\*

Really, we have no choice but to be ready, always, to forgive. If we understand the origin of the wrong as never being a part of one's true selfhood, we would be more ready to obey "Love thy neighbor as thyself." No offense deserves condemnation of the individual; while a rebuke of the wrong is necessary, it is never right to condemn another. I have learned that even if I need to part ways with someone, I can never condemn a Christ idea. Many verses from the Lesson tells us so:

Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Cor.3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Matt 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.

When I have taken the time to think of how much I have been forgiven, it stirs my heart to forgive also! \*\*\*\*\*

## SUBJECT – SPIRIT - 08/09/15

### Where The Spirit of The Lord Is.....

“...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

A Bible commentary notes that this statement was quite contrary to what the Jews believed, who referred to their laws as bringing forth liberty, stating “that he that studies the law hath freedom from everything”, whereas, the commentary points out, “such law gives freedom from nothing, but leads into and brings on persons a spirit of bondage. It holds men guilty, curses and condemns for non-obedience; so that such as are under it, and of the works of it, are always under a spirit of bondage; they obey not from love, but fear.”

Not unlike the world thought today, that places a high value on the acquiring of human knowledge, the study of the human body, psychology, the physical sciences—all of which are supposed to bring greater freedom, but only lead to greater bondage! Thank God for Christian Science, the promised Comforter, which reveals to man his spiritual identity and an understanding of the divine law of Love, which is the only path to true freedom. \*\*\*\*\*

### Out Of The Snare

“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves...that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

A Bible commentary points out the word “recover” translated from the Greek means “to awake, as from a deep sleep”. It also notes that the words “who are taken captive by him” translated means to be “caught alive”. It describes how a hunter will drop seeds meant to put birds to sleep so that he can capture them alive. It goes on to say that “the snares in which he (Satan) takes them are those prejudices, errors, lusts and vices, in which he entangles, and by which he detains his captives, in the most shameful bondage, danger and misery...”

This certainly describes “the Adam dream,” that hypnotic state of mortal thinking, and the importance of staying truly awake by watching our thoughts and keeping them aligned with God. Let’s not be caught “sleeping.” God needs us awake, watching, and working for Him! \*\*\*\*\*

At one dark point in my life I was literally in the Adam dream, in the "snare of the devil", hanging out with the wrong crowd, and spent a huge amount of time sleeping, even daily naps! Fortunately, God's grace pulled me out of that situation, but it took total humiliation and a lot of effort to correct the mess I had gotten myself into ("shameful bondage, danger and misery..."). I think about it sometimes--what was literally a sleeping dream! --to remember how very far I've come. It is the exact opposite of the constant watching we have been instructed to do here at Plainfield--and I am very grateful for this lesson. \*\*\*\*\*

### Wise As Serpents

“I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

Jesus prepared his disciples for the difficult road ahead of them. He did not send them out defenseless, but armed them with the understanding that would be their protection from the resistance and hatred they would encounter. Below are some interesting notes from Bible commentaries on this passage:

“The wisdom of the serpent is to escape notice...the prudence of the serpent is specially apparent in the quickness of its perception of danger and the rapidity with which it escapes from it...They were to imitate the serpent's wariness, but not his wiliness...Probably the thing in which Christ directed his followers to imitate the serpent was in its caution in avoiding danger. No animal equals them in the rapidity and skill which they evince in escaping danger.

“Harmless: unmixed, unadulterated...He directs

them, also, to be harmless, not to provoke danger, not to do injury, and thus make their fellow-men justly enraged against them. Doves are, and always have been, a striking emblem of innocence. Most people would foolishly destroy a serpent, be it ever so harmless, yet few are so hard-hearted as to kill a dove.”

What stands out to me here is understanding that we need to be quick in seeing through evil’s claims of being a person or situation and recognize it as animal magnetism. If we attached the evil to a person or thing, we would be in danger for we would be making a reality of evil. Instead, we handle animal magnetism--the nothing calling itself something. We keep our thought about man pure and unadulterated/unmixed with any claim of evil. By aligning our thought with God, we remain as innocent as doves (our safety) and are able to bless our fellow man. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you - well said! I never thought about how quickly a serpent detects and escapes from danger. Very important point. \*\*\*\*\*

## Lift Up A Standard

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.” We’ve all been there – when everything that could go wrong, does go wrong! During such times this Bible verse has been of great help to me. The word “standard” is defined as “that which is established by sovereign power as a rule or measure by which others are to be adjusted.” (Webster’s 1828) When I have earnestly prayed and have brought myself in line with this Bible promise it is as if God’s strong arm has pulled me up and out of whatever mayhem I might have believed myself to be in. God never leaves us without comfort. His presence IS always with us - all people, all things, all ways - must sooner or later adjust to His sovereign power and rule! His standard of perfection is ever at hand!  
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Thank you for stating this so clearly. It seems we need to "raise our standard" from the down-pulling

of mortal mind to the higher standard of God where he's "got our back"...because He's always right with us! \*\*\*\*\*

## Shun Profane And Vain Babblings

Timothy warns us to "shun profane and vain babblings." He goes on to say that, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use..."

Many years ago, Mrs. Evans enforced a rule that there was to be no gossip. It was a valuable discipline, as it kept profane and vain babblings out of the church, and taught us all to keep them out of our homes and businesses as well.

It's a sign of spiritual growth that you shun profanity and vanity. You become more concerned with the general welfare of mankind, look out for others, and look to bring out the best in them. I'm grateful for the discipline that Christian Science enforces, giving us greater purpose to our lives, and making us "meet for the master's use." I have to admit I used to indulge in profane and vain babblings quite a bit...because it seemed fun at the time! Except it never leaves you feeling good afterward but empty, because error is always a cheat. And I sure wasn't blessing my neighbor with such indulgences. \*\*\*\*\*

The discipline of the "straight and narrow way" certainly does bring purpose. The more I help others, the more I find true substance and fulfillment with fonder memories. (I have to admit also that the "straight and narrow way" never appealed to me... until I suffered enough to come around and realize it's the best way ever!) Life has been infinitely richer for me as I have turned my focus off of myself and onto God while striving to live Christian Science the best I know how. Thank God for the teachings of Plainfield--pure Christian Science--that turned my life around! \*\*\*\*\*

*And I sure wasn't blessing my neighbor with such indulgences.*

The concept of Oneness is truly a humbling one to clearly understand. It gives the reason why we must love our neighbor as ourselves. I've thought about this in prayer and see that whatever wrong thoughts I hold about others can be true for myself; because whatever I hold in thought as true can become my reality and therefore possible in **my** experience.

Wisdom then should tell me to refrain from vain babblings and gossip which all stem from the thinking that defames God, and defile His creation. There is only one common enemy for all mankind; we should see this and in obeying the commandment to love one another overthrow the evil that perpetuates the belief of different minds, and confuse us as to who our real enemy is!  
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Our tendency is to see both black and white as real, and then there is a lot to talk about, criticize. We give reality to the unreal, even this "world." I feel this great need for oneness, to think only God's thoughts, to be one with His heart, to see and experience and so talk only His perfection, His tender caring love.

We cannot expect to go to heaven unless our heart is one with His. \*\*\*\*\*

## Take No Thought

"...take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak"

What a beautiful Lesson on Spirit this week. I especially appreciate the lesson of letting the Spirit shine when speaking with others. Many a time, I've inwardly cringed when a discussion started to move towards religion because inadvertently someone was going to ask me about my denomination and the reception in the past when I've mentioned Christian Science hasn't always been welcoming. Rather than rattling off talking points, shutting down human wisdom and allowing Spirit to provide the words needed is indeed the best approach. After all, Christian Science is not

some man-made thing, but Truth given us directly from God. \*\*\*\*\*

Much appreciation---"For it is not ye that speak but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." An important reminder that vehemence in explanations is totally counterproductive, but the only way that will succeed is letting the Spirit speak as heart to heart. \*\*\*\*\*

Amen, what a fresh way to state this fact! I must say that the openness and strong teachings here at Plainfield have enabled me to go from mute to outspoken about God and Christian Science, which has been explained as the Laws of the Universe, and that's something that people can relate to. What good was I being mute? But I could not accept what was being portrayed as C.S.... and then I found independent Plainfield! The strong teachings have allowed me to communicate about God heart-to-heart and with confidence. \*\*\*\*\*

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"But prayer, coupled with a fervent habitual desire to know and do the will of God, will bring us into all Truth." Science and Health

This is the standard of humility that enables the Truth to enter our hearts; and when the Truth is sincerely felt and lived, one cannot but share it with the motive to bless and help others (Love). Earlier on I would hesitate to mention Christian Science because I was shaky in my own conviction of it as The Truth that makes men free. As its life changing power changed my life, I became more confident to share it when I felt led to do so without any argument; sharing also from what its authority can be found!! \*\*\*\*\*

I am very grateful for the realness of what I am learning here. I never get a sick feeling, as I would when I delved into “other interests” such as Buddhism. (I find it hard to word that point clearly, as Christian Science obviously isn’t just another system, interest, religion, etc.) The general fakeness—their ‘do as I say, not as I do’ lifestyles—of the members of churches that I went to in my youth made me not ever want to be associated with them, physically or in thought. This led me over time to feel that the mere mention of God might invite such a connotation.

However, coming to Plainfield, and seeing the members here living this Science—and unapologetically grateful to God!—has shown me that there is no need for such embarrassment. God is good, and Christian Science is provable. Why would I keep that to myself? \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, so many people are put off by mere religion, and the dualism it teaches. It is really a relief to understand that God is Spirit, or consciousness only, and that the whole universe, man included, is spiritual, it only exists as consciousness in consciousness. So when we purge our consciousness of error and darkness, we are ushered into a new, different universe. Even the divine Mind. \*\*\*\*\*

### **...to Augment and Increase Spirituality**

The August 6th, 2015 calendar statement:  
**Remember only the good, then you will be communing with God.** — Edward Kimball

**The very opposite of this silent communion with God is the human satisfaction that members permit themselves to take in the number of new members they have taken in, in the number of pieces of literature they have mailed out, or the number of broadcasts that have been given. On the surface, these activities seem useful and constructive, and so they are, provided they are used to augment and express spirituality, but not to take the place of it.**

— from Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts,

by Gilbert Carpenter, (Vol. 1, page 180 in some volumes)

Last night, I felt moved to open Precepts, and my eyes landed right on that paragraph. I am so grateful for that, because—not only did it go with the day’s calendar statement—it came right after giving the monthly report to the trustees. I am always grateful for any reminder to keep my motives right in working for the church. Using the tools available to try to get this message to more people is an ongoing task, and “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians) comes to mind a lot, as it must be God directed and for the benefit of mankind. Only this will bring “forth good things” as it says in the lesson.

### **5. Matthew 12**

#### **35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things:**

I am grateful to God for bringing me here and finding ways to make me useful. \*\*\*\*\*

It is encouraging to know God's Word is going forth and bearing fruit - He "giveth the increase."

### **All Capable**

“We are all capable of more than we do.” At our church board meeting last night Jeremy reported our forum had over 4,100 views in the past month! So we thank those of you who contribute such interesting and helpful posts and who are always willing to do a little more. Everyone is capable of being a "humble servant of the restful Mind." (S&H) You never know who you might be helping - just as you have been helped. “Millions of unprejudiced minds- simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert – are waiting and watching for rest and drink. Give them a cup of cold water in Christ’s name and never fear the consequences.” (*Science and Health*)