

Sword & Song News

The Teaching Newsletter of Dr. Tamara Winslow

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Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. KJV

My early childhood concept of love was unavoidably influenced by the emergence of the music of the Beatles, the Monkees, and a cartoon-“Love is..” Even though my parents tried to protect me from these, the words of “Love Love Me Do”, “Can’t Buy Me Love” “All You Need is Love” along with the pictures of two nearly genderless cartoon characters intended to insinuate a boy and girl in love subtly impacted my thinking processes. Society was changing and its definitions for “love” evolved accordingly. Then, as the Hippie and dreadfully mislabeled “free-love” movement swept the youth culture of the nations, even affecting Christendom through the Jesus Movement, the more traditional definition for love was buried under a mix of feelings, so-called rights, and boundariless expressions.

For the last several years I've become more and more disturbed about this sad condition of genuine “Lovelessness” amongst Christians. I know this is a huge generalization and some people may react by saying that I'm recklessly pointing an accusing finger at a vast majority without consideration for so many who do really demonstrate godly love. But the more involved I've become in the “Social Networking sites” and sometimes read in shock the incessant selection of blogs, both on and off Christian sites, it has become more than obvious to me that many believers and people at large are generally ignorant of and have forgotten what love means according to Heaven's standard. Honestly this is the tip of a very large and submerged iceberg, which needs to be exposed and melted.

Paul the apostle wrote to the believers at Rome and instructed them to love without dissimulation or in a manner that is unfeigned not play-acted. (Rom. 12:9) His usage of this word implies that we shouldn't love in a manner that is theatrical. The word “theatric” compels me to think about how radically the multimedia world has contributed to the play-acted expression said to be “love” affecting anyone influenced by movies, TV, computer games, social networking sites, and music. The absence of healthy values, wise morals, sexual purity and self-control are considered acceptably normal in the media influences that contemporary society allows. The flip side of this has produced a

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN HOW TO LOVE?

(PART ONE)

By Dr. Tamara Winslow

reactive religious attempt to communicate godly truths that all too often sadly come off as self-righteous and cheesy. Now please don't misunderstand me and react prematurely. I fully realize that many people who call themselves Christians seek to provide a healthy alternative for the immoral representations of how love has been portrayed, and in some cases, the believers have succeeded doing so. Nonetheless I think we need to ask if we might be missing something. Is there a greater force at work affecting how we see love portrayed in and outside of the Church? Personally I've become disgusted by how love has been romanticized and how this feelings-driven definition is affecting everything from relationships to praise and worship. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that people who choose to love righteously are often considered to be narrow-minded, even in Christian circles. I've personally overheard young believers accuse their Christian friends of being small-minded simply because they refused to be sexually promiscuous and “love”. Ick!!!

The questions we must ask are: Why has love suffered such a demonic beating? Moreover, why have Christians been seduced by Satan's lies? These are big questions, and complicated to answer. But in order to address this deficit we need to expose an ancient satanic plot determined to destroy every foundational truth essential to faith, Christianity and godly lifestyle. We'll look at that in a moment. But consider this with me. Jesus warned that before His return, whenever that is, that the concept of



genuine godly love will suffer severe abuse and eventually cease to generally function in the Church and humanity at large. Offense will become a normative state of human expression so much so that the right to be offended and the justification for that right will create an atmosphere in which betrayal and hate will thrive. What's more, love will be so badly damaged that Jesus described it as refrigerating¹ in the midst of a lawless world.

Matt 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³ But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved

Jesus stated in Matthew 24:12 that iniquity will proliferate before His return. Humankind will embrace a state of wickedness unique to those times. It is because of this iniquity that love will gradually 'refrigerate' The Greek word translated, as "iniquity" in this verse is *anomia* and is a word that generally refers to illegality. Therefore whoever or whatever practices such is in violation of the laws of God and as a result practices a condition of being without law of any righteous origin. Hence iniquity or lawlessness more broadly infers a condition where all parameters for right and wrong, morals, truth, righteous living, proper definition and godly character -including love- have been eradicated and replaced with a state of unrestrained, self-willed behavior, conversation, thought and human expression.



2 Thess 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Paul, in writing to the Hellenistically-minded Thessalonian believers, warned them to be aware of the gradual process of iniquity. I say "process" because, in 2 Thess. 2:7, Paul explains the operation of iniquity as a mystery of iniquity. Various Greek lexicons and dictionaries such as *Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures* describe the Greek word "musterion", translated as 'mystery', as a secret that will gradually unfold before the return of Christ. The more that I research, the more I discover saints throughout Christian history, which have prospected the Word, attempted to unveil how this mystery operates. Logically, if this secret agenda can be exposed then a Biblical strategy could be possibly assembled to prevent the mystery's advance and there-

fore slow down the cycle of iniquity. I suppose in many ways this pursuit has become one of the main thrusts of my life's work and study. I hate this mystery with a passion!!! I see it operating everywhere, in and outside the Church. Nonetheless I truly believe that serious Bible students and prayerful observers who are willing to investigate it can expose this insidious mystery! I'm convinced that valuable clues have been woven throughout history as to how Satan enforces iniquity. Consequently, we must endeavor to understand how the mystery of lawlessness works to create an atmosphere or ideology whereby love begins to refrigerate. Furthermore, since this mystery is intent on gradually removing the "laws" or parameters of right and wrong, then the definitions and characteristics for love will be targeted in order to make room for unforgiveness, offense, hatred and ungodly behaviors.

Presumption is a deadly condition of heart. Regrettably, after having been in an international interdenominational traveling ministry for over 30 years, I've observed a naive, passive, presumptuous idea that people know what godly love means and should look like. And yet, when it comes down to it, and questions are asked, and behaviors and conversations examined, love is an obscure, vague concept to believers in many nations. True Christian love is seldom accurately taught primarily because the mystery of lawlessness has

infected leaders as well as the everyday believer. Through these observations I've discovered that the average Christian is unaware of the subtle and gradual affects of humanistic education, philosophy, popular psychology, tolerance ideologies on how we understand and apply Biblical doctrine. This is especially the case when considering the influences of the multimedia. All the things I've just listed effectively remove the definitions or boundaries for God's kind of Love. We're dealing with at least 100 years of the effects of this mystery, not realizing how much room has been given to the rights to be offended and offensive, in both our societies and churches. I've come to the conclusion that we don't have a clear definition for love, nor do we know what it looks like.

It may be a surprise to some, but the Bible wasn't originally written in English! In the days of Jesus the King James Version did not exist! Therefore, if we're going to restore long lost boundaries for definition of love, we have to examine the original languages of Hebrew and Greek. According to the ancient texts the words for love and friendship originated from an assortment of around 33 Hebrew words and 29 Greek words, each providing different slants and variations of the concept of love. These can be narrowed down to two key Hebrew words '*ahabh*' and '*ahabhah*', and three Greek words '*phileo*', '*agapao*', and '*agape*'. The *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* defines love as- *Love, whether used of God or man, is an earnest and anxious*

¹ From The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible Lexical Aids to the New Testament edition 1992 by Spiros Zodhiates comments page 1770 citing Strong's Number 5594- Psucho.

desire for and an active and beneficent interest in the well being of the one loved. Spiros Zohdicates writes in his Lexical aids in the *Hebrew Greek Key study Bible*, that agape is best defined as a love which is given not according to what the one being loved desires, but which is given according to what the one giving love deems as needed by the one loved. That's a far cry from the limited traditional unconditional love so many believers emphatically embrace. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son. He didn't give man what man wanted but He gave what man what was actually needed as God perceived the need. Therefore it is God's willful direction toward man. The world didn't desire Jesus, and probably in truly doesn't even recognize the need for Jesus. But God so loved because He knows the world needs Jesus, even when it doesn't appreciate Him. That is love, real love. However, for man to show love to God he must first take possession of God's agape, for only God has such unselfish love.

Additionally love indicates a direction of will! It is not just a feeling. Agape love isn't given just because someone desires something from someone. It's granted because of the genuine need perceived by the one loving the receiver. Consequently no one can say to you, "If you love me, than you have to do this for me, because love gives without conditions." Love is consequential in its thinking and expression! It doesn't react. It responds! Shocking?

Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. **4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:**5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me:**6** And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. KJV

Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: **5** And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. KJV

The first mention of love toward God is found in the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:3-6 commands that we're not to worship other gods or idols. Idolatry of things, other gods, and, let me put forward, even inappropriately placing people on pedestals is contrary to the love of God. He is jealous for your love! Furthermore, Deuteronomy 6:4-5 emphasizes that we are to love Him with all our heart, soul and might.

Deut 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. KJV

A number of years ago I spoke at a church mission conference and had finished my message in the evening service when something quite unusual happened. In fact this memory still saddens me when I consider how many Christians exist with exactly the same entangled mindset. Sitting off to the side of the sanctuary on the first row I rested, waiting for the crowds to clear

out. A tall middle-aged man walked toward me exhibiting a mildly frantic manner and carrying the most tattered Bible I think I've ever seen. By the looks of his Bible, it seemed obvious that this man was determined and desperate to find answers. I was a bit taken aback when he aggressively challenged me about what I'd spoken, persistently quoting Old Testament law. I managed to stay calm as he ranted on about various issues that didn't seem to relate to what I'd taught. In fact, from all appearances, it seemed as if he was trying to pick a theological fight. Two of the

people sitting near me tried to jump in and intervene, commenting on his points, to which he reacted with restrained hostility. As I listened and tried to understand what he was going on about he asked the following very simple but profound question. This question clued me in to what was driving him. How can someone love God when God commands that person to obey His laws and statutes if there seems to be no way to obey them all perfectly? I suddenly realized

the man's dilemma and was sympathetic to the real struggle within him. Human beings who seek after God are trying to answer the very same difficulty. Quietly and gently, I said to him, "Brother I know what's troubling you. I can see that you're searching and genuinely want to know what truth is. Let me give you a verse that I believe will help you solve your struggle." He was so caught off guard at my manner that he relaxed and listened. I explained to him that his frustration of feeling unable to love God fully was simply because he didn't understand the reason being born again is critical to spiritual intimacy. Since he was so emphatic about Jewish law, I intentionally used a verse pertaining to the Old Testament ritual of circumcision to get my point across and encouraged him to read Deuteronomy 30:6. This single verse prophetically states that when God circumcised a believing heart, then the ability to love God is unlocked, not the other way around. Fallen human beings are incapable of truly loving God until the Holy Spirit transforms the heart through the New Creation. Therefore I encouraged him to read that verse, as I knew if his thought process followed through the concepts, these revelations would open the door for many other key truths related to loving God because of the New Birth. Calmed, he left. Two days later he returned all excited about what he'd found. He energetically shook my hand up and down profusely thanking me.

Gal 4:17 These men [the Judaizing teachers] are zealously trying to dazzle you [paying court to you, making much of you], but their purpose is not honorable or worthy or for any good. What they want to do is to isolate you [from us who oppose them], so that they may win you over to their side and get you to court their favor. AMP

Phil 3:2 Look out for those dogs [Judaizers, legalists], look out for those mischief-makers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.AMP

I can't help but wonder how many people like him could be helped with just some simple answers. Regrettably that man was on the verge, if not already was, what the Amplified Bible trans-

Love indicates a direction of will!

It is not just a feeling.

literation calls a "Judaizer" as his entire faith was wrapped up in fulfilling Old Testament laws. What's more, his dilemma isn't unique. Countless well-meaning Christians, determined to love God with all their inner being, are frustrated. Some, desperate to find truth, have all but tried to become Jewish, as this man had also been doing, thinking that if they fulfill all the Old Testament laws then they would love God acceptably and as a result be loved by God. This is so regrettable but it is becoming more common than I would like to say. Once a believer starts down that seductive path, trying to be Jewish through the observation of the ritualistic, ceremonial and moral laws, outside of the completed work of the Cross, then he or she will slide down a slippery slope that will almost always lead into a works-based religious form, legalism, Talmudism and eventually the Jewish forms of the occult practiced in Kabala. These blinded souls embrace an interpretation of Scripture that gradually skews solid doctrine while at the same time throwing out the four basic principles for accurate Bible study in favor of the letter of the law! I've observed those who do so often renounce Jesus as their savior because the law and their works become their means toward salvation. Now don't get me wrong! I honor and believe the Hebraic roots of the Christian faith are vital to understanding what we believe and who we are! But when there isn't a thorough revelation of what has occurred in the new birth then religion replaces righteous relationship, marred by dead human effort.

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: **11** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: KJV

Paul the apostle, teacher and preacher heartily warned the church of Colosse not to fall prey to such ideas. While dealing with a messy mixture of philosophies ranging from Gnosticism to asceticism, Paul reminded the Colossian saints that the fundamental truths accomplished in the new birth are sufficient for godly living and right standing in God. What we fail to see is that traditions, laws, philosophies and human efforts eventually rip off faith while destroying the inheritance found alone through faith in Christ. It must be stated that once a person is born again, the believer has been made complete in Christ and doesn't need to be re-circumcised or go through the motions of trying to fulfill all the Old Testament laws out of the works mentality. The covenant and the statement of the circumcision of the flesh led up to the coming of Jesus and were fulfilled in the spiritual circumcision of the heart foretold of in Deuteronomy 30. Furthermore it was intended for both Jew and Gentile. It is therefore the mar-

Love is a direct result of the spiritual transformation offered by the New Birth and an intimacy that begins with a choice to confess faith.

velous work of the new birth, as exemplified in the spiritual circumcision of the heart, that love is enabled! Moreover a recent trend in many Christian circles to become "Jewish", in attempting to fulfill all the laws, is pointless and actually contradictory to faith and righteousness! In fact, such practice in essence annuls the love that God intended to be released by the new creation, producing instead a disgusting form of self-righteousness contrary to what Jesus has accomplished. Paul further wrote in Romans 2:28-29 that a true Jew is one who is circumcised in the heart, not the flesh. So it boggles my mind why anyone would want to revert to Old Testament legalism to enact a statement of faith when a legalistic religious lifestyle has always been insufficient to ignite the love for God that only the new birth can do!

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: **29** But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit KJV

The believer has a tremendous and unappreciated advantage over the unsaved in that once faith in Christ is confessed, resulting in the new creation, the Holy Spirit then deposits the love for and of God into that human heart. Love is therefore not just an emotion! It is a direct result of spiritual transformation and intimacy that began with the choice to confess faith. Consequently, you have no excuse not to love. It's not an option! (Rom. 5:5)

Rom 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. KJV

Matt 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.²⁸ Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. (lawlessness- anomia- My notes) KJV

As one can see, the mystery of lawlessness is constantly subtly maneuvering to destroy and change the definition of love. By it Satan endeavors to employ every means and angle to either remove godly definitions for love or enforce a legalistic self-righteous facsimile that falls short from what we're created to express. In saying this, I've observed that wherever you find lawlessness you'll also find legalism close behind. For example, Jesus linked lawlessness with religious legalism in describing the Pharisees and religious leaders of His day. He related that though they outwardly appeared to fulfill the laws of Moses, inwardly were full of iniquity (lawlessness). One can see that, when there is a lack of understanding concerning the effects of the new birth and righteousness, that a reactive legalistic pursuit for loving God through works may take over. This so-called love comes across as pushy, self-righteous, corrective, and inconsiderate of other people's boundaries. On the other hand a wrong view of love can become ooey-goey, naïve, giving without wisdom, haphazard and unaware of the consequences of any of its

words or actions. The individual expressing this type of "love" generally has no idea of what he or she is doing and inevitably offends in both word and deed. Such people are generally more concerned about "tolerance" than truth. To those people, truth is an obscure concept being either legalistically interpreted or so fluid that there is no absolute regarding for what is right and wrong. Furthermore, it is nearly impossible to nail down or correct these errors. Sadly, the people who are caught in its counterfeit nature almost always don't understand what the Scriptures reveal as accomplished in salvation. They're also often lawless in many areas of their lives!

I'm hopeful that in exposing the dichotomy of how the mystery of lawlessness endeavors to corrupt the definition for love we can consequently begin to discern the need for revelation and growth. Paul charged the Roman church to owe no man anything but to love! He went on to say that the law is fulfilled by love. A love for God inspires a love and consideration for people. The law is therefore not abolished because if that were the case then sin would not be distinguished from righteousness. But those who have received that deposit of love from and for God in the New Birth consequently restrain their behaviors to honor Him, endeavoring to protect their intimate relationship with Him and show consideration and care for the people around them. Moreover, what was necessary for righteousness in the Old Testament rituals and ceremonies have been met in the sacrifice, death and resurrection of Jesus. We can therefore truly love when we believe in His death and resurrection as sufficient unto righteousness and life!

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.⁹ For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **10** Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. KJV

In conclusion, love must be described in practice and applicable definitions. The obscurity must be addressed. Our theatrical, boundariless understanding of genuine Christian love needs to be abolished and replaced with the real thing. Thank God there are clues in the Scriptures and we will discover them together in this needed series of articles.

BE WATCHING FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PART TWO- LOVE IS NOT STUPID

Check out and "like" Dr. Tamara Winslow's Facebook ministry page!

THE REVIVAL STUDY BIBLE can be ordered on www.tamarawinslow.com for \$95.00. The price includes shipping & handling costs!

Dr. Winslow's new book, *The Privilege and The Price of the Call* is available to order on her website!

A newsletter page has been added to www.tamarawinslow.com featuring her numerous and helpful teaching articles.

SCHEDULING **DR. TAMARA WINSLOW**

If you desire to schedule Dr. Winslow for a ministry engagement please do not assume she is too busy or too expensive! For some reason people have told us that she must be too busy or won't come to their smaller group so they don't invite her. Please don't hesitate to contact her if the Lord is leading you to do so.

CURRENT MINISTRY NEEDS

Numerous people have enquired how they can help Dr. Winslow and would like to know what some of the ministry needs are.

Please find that list below.

2 new Apple Computers & necessary software

1 Desktop about \$2100

11" Airbook laptop approximately \$1500

Graphics design software from \$700-1000

Or Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Illustrator
not Photoshop Elements

COMPUTER SOFTWARE-

Adobe X Pro Suite-- \$800

Sampled Orchestral Software for recording approximately \$300

MIDI Equipment for keyboard-\$300-800

Volunteer helpers to work in CD production

This work requires duplicating CD's, Printing inserts and labels, assembling CD's and shrink-wrapping.

Need a Teaching CD and DVD editor to prepare materials for people to obtain. There are over 400 hours of this that needs to be done.

Finances to record several new music CD projects

These will range in cost from \$3000-\$8000
"Daughters of Eve" Broadway style music CD
Christmas CD

Old Hymns and Spiritual Songs CD
Praise and Worship CD

Remastering Old CD recordings- "Hope for the Future", "All I Am", "Alpha and Omega" and "Accounts".



Tamara Winslow

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Guest Artists-
**Maurice Sklar, Eric Uglum,
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Roger Gilliespie**

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