

we can show toward Christians, toward the people who do not know Christ is to bring them the story of salvation in order that the Holy Spirit may apply it to their hearts and lead them to the knowledge of Christ. And this is love that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment that he has heard from ~~beh-~~ the beginning that we should walk in it. What a wonderful stress is given here by John upon love and upon truth. And you notice that this is all positive thus far. Is it not? It is positive. Love, Christian love, true Christian love is based upon Christian truth. But you know, the disciples, the apostles, the writers of the Bible were not nearly positive, but they were also negative. You have to be. The little boy I mentioned heading toward a _____, and you run and grab hold of him, and you bring him back. You are positive, but you also are negative. You are pointing ^{to} the danger. You are delivering him from it. You are forcing him away from it. You are teaching him to avoid it.

I heard out in California about a family that was so ~~worry--a--~~ worried about what might happen to their little boy that they shut ~~him a~~ fence around him, and had a nice yard and they kept him in it, and they never let him out, and he was within the yard in which he was placed, and he played and it was very nice for him, but they ~~never~~ let him out. They loved him too much that they were afraid of what might to him, and one day that little boy, two or three years old, ~~god~~ that gate opened, when the family was in the other end of the house, and ... out to the street, and nobody could ever understand how it could have happened, but he got down to the street and ~~the-~~ crossed the three busy streets and went down a side area to a lake and fell into the lake and was drowned. And ~~theri-love--~~ their love for their child was simply closing him around, thinking that ~~they~~ could constantly protect him, was not true love. True love would have taught the child to take care of himself, so that when he did get loose, he would be able to know some of the dangers and avoid them. True loves odes not simply seek to hide us from that which ~~is~~ exists, but to teach us to deal with what exists. So, ~~Paul~~ ^{John} goes on as he writes to this elect lady, and to her children. And from verse 7 to 11 he gives the negative aspect of it. He says,