

This is love that we walk after His commandments. God does not command us necessarily to talk a great deal about love. He commands us to show Christian love, and the greatest love that we can show toward others is that which John describes in 1 John 4-- "Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." The greatest love that we can show toward 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 into the knowledge of Christ.

This is love that we walk after His commandments, and this is the commandment that ye have heard from the beginning ye should walk in it. What a wonderful stress is given by John upon love and upon truth. You notice this is all positive, thus far. Love Christian love, love based upon Christian truth.

But the Apostles and writers of the Bible were not merely positive. They were also negative. You have to be. The little boy I mentioned heading toward the precipice. You run and 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 Calif. about a man who was so worried about what might happen to their little boy; they shut a fence around him. They had a nice yard, and they kept him in it, they never let him out of it. He was in the yard, he was having a place to ~~play~~ play and it was very nice for him but they would never let him out. They loved him too much, they were too afraid of what might happen. One day that little boy, two or three years old, got that gate open when the family was in the other end of the house and toddles off down the street. Nobody could understand how it happened, but he got down the street and across three busy streets, and down a side area to a lake and fell into the lake and was drowned. Their love toward the child in simply closing him around and thinking 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 know some of the dangers and avoid them. True love does not simply seek to hide us from that which exists but to teach us to deal with it.

So Paul goes on as he writes to this elect lady and her children and in vv.7-11 he gives the negative aspect of it. He says he loves her in the truth. We must love one another, but it must be a love founded on the truth. He goes on, v.7, "for many deceivers are entered into the world who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves that ye loose not those things that we have wrought, but that ye receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine receive him not into your house, neither