

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LOVE IS What Is Our Concern?

Enmity, friction, and strife seem to be sweeping America and the world like a tidal wave. We hear constantly of protests, strikes, riots, and wars.

The struggle of minority groups for civil rights and personal dignity has often brought increased tension, misunderstanding, and bitter hatred. The protests of young people against war, pollution, and depersonalization have widened the generation gap.

Many persons have said that the Christian answer to such human enmity and strife is to be found in Jesus' teachings about love. One popular slogan reads,

"Make love, not war." But immediately we must ask: What does it mean to "make love"? Is this what Jesus meant? Indeed, the word love has so many different meanings that we need to define the term with great care.

Popular definitions may be grouped under three general meanings. One is the desire to possess and enjoy some value. A child may say, "I just love ice cream." This selfish kind of love seems to be a major element in much of the shallow, romantic love that is the constant theme of movies, popular songs, novels, and magazines. A higher form of the love of value is found in the search for the

good, the true, and the beautiful.

The second group of meanings centers in the friendly relationship of persons. It is the opposite of ill will and hatred. It includes natural affection in the family, the nobler aspects of romantic love, the general good will in the community usually meant by the saying "Love your neighbor," and patriotism or love of country. Probably this type of love is a mixture of selfishness and concern for others.

We recognize a third and higher meaning of love in genuine concern for the welfare of others. Probably many would think immediately of a mother's love for her child or the sacrifice of a martyr. (See John 15:13.) Such completely unselfish love is rare.

Loving is often confused with liking. Feelings of dislike or revulsion toward people repulsive to us are natural and cannot be changed easily. This fact probably helps explain why many think Jesus' call to love our enemies is impracticable or impossible. Yet it is possible to have genuine good will and concern for the most unlovely person, even though we dislike his ways and deeds.

How, then, is Christian love to be defined?

Surely the best answer is to be found in Jesus' life, for "God is love" (1 John 4:16), and Jesus is the unique and supreme revelation of God in human life. Like a beam of pure sunlight in a dirty alley, he brought God's transforming love into our hatred and strife. He dealt graciously with evil persons without compromising the divine wrath and judgment against evil. He was humble and gentle without hint of weakness. He was known as "the friend of sinners" with no suggestion of sin in himself. No one could charge him with self-seeking or mixed motives. Finally, he gave himself without reserve or regret for the sake of his enemies.

First Corinthians 13 is doubtless the greatest description we have of the nature of divine love. This Christian hymn describes the basic quality characterizing the life of Jesus as he is portrayed in the Gospels.

We cannot study this marvelous chapter here. However, in light of the desperate needs of our day, we would do well to read and ponder it thoroughly as we seek to know and realize in our own lives Jesus' teaching about divine love.

Searching The Scripture

The Scripture for this lesson is Luke 6. Selected verses are printed below.

Luke 6:27-38

27 "But I say to you that hear,

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Patronize The Place Where You Work

Patronize the firm where you earn your money. The big talk about this subject is around the L. Richardson Hospital where many of the employees there, when they become ill, go to neighborhood hospitals as Cone or Wesley Long, when many times they could get the same service at L. Richardson. For instance, if an employee is expecting a baby, she may work at L. Richardson and go over to Cone Hospital to have it delivered. Why not go to the place where you make your living if that firm offers the same service? It seems that you don't have confidence in the place where you work; it seems that you don't have confidence in yourself when you go elsewhere instead of the place offering you a livelihood and offering the same type of service.

When an employer hires you, he is doing you a favor. When an employer gives you a job, he is giving you the three essentials of nature — food, shelter and clothing. Therefore, you should help him in the way of paying back by patronizing his business. Or you may be working in a grocery store; you work one place and spend your money somewhere else when you could get the same thing at the place where you work. Of course, it is your privilege to spend your money where you want to or where you please, but there is a law of average of appreciation that you recognize the hand that feeds you, the hand that makes it possible for you to afford shelter and buy the necessary clothes you need. This is true of the hospital; it is a business that operates on the money it takes in, and when you go somewhere else for such services, you are not helping the company or firm to stay in business. If the intake of money falls off, he may have to let you go somewhere else to find a job.

Some say, I went to Cone because they give better service or better treatment; I went to Cone because my doctor advised me to go there; I went to Cone or to the community hospital because I want top service, and I paid top prices to go there. Of course, the laws differ at Cone than at L. Richardson where visitors chase up and down the halls any time of day or night, but the employees who work there have a say so about this type of condition. You can tell them that it is not visiting hours, or to check the desk to see if they can get permission to visit some relative or friend in between the regular visiting hours. If you want to see better service, then do your job better. Why offer all types of criticisms about the place where you earn your money or go somewhere else when you need treatment?

I admit that L. Richardson may not have all the facilities they need, in some cases, for certain types of ailments, but the hospital has greatly improved its facilities in the past fifteen or twenty years. Many of the doctors are just as skilled as some doctors in other hospitals. There was a time when you could not go to Cone or to any other white hospital. When L. Richardson was first built, some women came into the hospital and had their baby and went home the next day. Some have had their babies at home. It seems such a minor thing to run from one hospital to another just to have a baby, and pay four or five dollars more for overnight. At Richardson some have had babies delivered and never paid for them. If you go to Cone you will pay top prices. Unless it is a rare case, where a specialist is needed, you could utilize the facilities at your community hospital. If any illness requires an expert, the doctors at L. Richardson will often call in a specialist from another hospital. These doctors

can not serve at Cone and other hospitals unless they are on the staff, whereas, the white doctors can usually serve a patient in any hospital. Remember it is the little man that supports you, and you should patronize him, if you work for him.

Be aware of your employer, be aware of the patients and treat them like a member of your family. Do your job in good faith, have good faith in your employer and in those who work with you. Then you will have confidence in the establishment; you will have confidence in the workers around you and you will have confidence in yourself. Whether you are a nurse's aid or a nurse, treat all patients alike. Of course, you can't run to a patient every minute who rings the bell and hollers that he needs a pill, but the Florence Nightengale is a dedicated nurse. She is not sleeping in a corner or watching the clock, she is doing the job to the best of her ability. If everyone does his job this way, he or she will not have to run some where else for better service. Whether it is at Cone, L. Richardson, Duke or any other, the way you do your job at one place, is probably the way you will do it at another. As a layman worker, a cook, an aid or a cleaning employee, always try to do by your employer as you would want him to do by you. If you work at one place and go to another for service, what do you expect the community to say? If you are an employer, be faithful to your duty.

Yes, you say that people go up and down the halls selling papers in L. Richardson, but all types of people have a way of getting into the hospitals; agents are often in and out trying to sell their wares to the patients — cosmetics and other things. You should only try to keep out the crooks who have all sorts of schemes for getting in to get certain things to some of their friends. If you neglect your job, then the patient has a right to go out and say I did not get the treatment that I paid for. Be aware of your responsibilities to your employer, to those you serve and concentrate on all things wisely for a comfortable life of health and well-rounded living for all.

There are other instances where the employee, instead of patronizing the place he earns his money, goes somewhere else to spend his money. The little carpenter can drive a nail just as well as the big carpenter. You can give him jobs that need to be done, but so often you go to the big man who belongs to the union and he can charge big prices for the same job. Spend your money wisely, and with the little man who is backing you up, if he offers the same services.

Many people will go to a small business to get ten dollars change to ride the Duke Power bus early in the morning, and this may make the little man short of change, if he changes several bills like this. Why not get your change at the Duke Power Company while you are down town, since you know you will be riding the bus the next morning? If you do want change at the small grocery, why not spend some of your money there? Why not buy something in order to get the change you need? This will help him and you at the same time.

During the Christmas holidays, some people ran all over town looking for bargains, but everyone was selling at the top price. The bargains were after the holidays in clearance sales, but some had spent all their money and could not save on the sales.