

Loving Sabbath 2014  
 “Love is a Many-Splendored Thing”  
*Oops! Did I just say that?*

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Centreville Church, The Bahamas  
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*Proverbs 18:24; 27:6*

“There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.  
 Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.”

In 1955 one of the most beautiful motion pictures was produced. It was titled “Love is a many-splendored thing.”

“The plot in the movie is about a widowed Eurasian doctor Han Suyin (Jones) who falls in love with the married-but-separated American correspondent Mark Elliott (Holden) in Hong Kong, during the period of China's Civil War in the late 1940s. Although they briefly find happiness together and were deeply in love, she is ostracized by the greater Chinese community. He had to leave his lovely wife to go to war. She gets the message one day that he was killed. Distraught, Suyin climbs the hill to the tree where they said their last goodbyes, half hoping to see him there again. When she realizes that he is truly gone, she falls to her knees sobbing. In the final scene, a **butterfly**, similar to the one seen on Elliot's typewriter while at the front, lands on the tree in front of Suyin. She composes herself and walks away. She found peace because the butterfly reminded her of their loving relationship.

The words of theme song for the movie are so meaningful:

“Love is a many-splendored thing,  
 It's the April rose that only grows in the early spring,  
 Love is nature's way of giving a reason to be living . . .”

But let me focus for a few sort minutes on the butterfly. Something about the butterfly’s habits that are important to our message today. It can appear the butterflies can be wonderful friends to humans. Do you know why butterflies will land in the palm of your hands when you hold them out?

Butterflies are attracted to the moisture particles on the hand.

**If the “butterflies” around you are not landing on your “hands,” it might be due to the lack of “moisture” on your hands.”**

**We are to take the time to create “moisture” on our hands so that others around us will be attracted to us and feel safe to “land.”**

What is the “moisture?”

☺ Unconditional acceptance

Unconditional acceptance is being able to understand and tolerate the qualities of the person you love, no matter what it is. This doesn't mean that you must accept everything that person does especially if it's inappropriate and rude. What it does mean is to forgive them and try to work past these problems and if that's not possible, distance yourself and show them some tough love.

☺ Unconditional loving

*Regardless of income level, nationality, ethnicity, race*

Unconditional love is affection without any limitations. This generally means to love someone . . . no matter what they do or who they are. This does not actually mean you do not see their fault but you just love them despite everything. An example of this is a parent's unconditional love for their child; no matter a test score, a life changing decision, an argument, or a strong belief, the amount of love that remains between this bond is seen as unchanging and unconditional.

☺ An attitude of forgiveness Colosians 3:13 Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

☺ A spirit of compassion and kindness Genuine compassion is based not on our own projections and expectations, but rather on the rights of the other: irrespective of whether another person is a close friend or an enemy, as long as that person wishes for peace and happiness and wishes to overcome suffering, then on that basis we develop a genuine concern for his or her problems. This is genuine compassion

☺ A gentle spirit

The Greek Word most often translated as gentleness is from the word ***prautes*** and has no meaning of aggression at all. It is from the same root word as "meekness." Common meanings of gentle are kind and amiable, as well as "free from harshness, sternness, or violence."

To illustrate the deep meaning of purpose of love let us share with you some great quotations about love. These quote are from great minds down through the centuries:

OSCAR WILDE Irish writer and poet 1854 to 1900

**“Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead.”**

TAO TZU Philosopher and poet of ancient China 604-531 BC

**“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.”**

THOMAS CARLYLE 1795 to 1881 A nineteenth century Scottish historian

**“A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge.”**

MOTHER TERESA

**“Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action.”**

FRIEDRICH WILHELM NIETZSCHE 1844 TO 1900 A German philosopher, essayist, and cultural critic

**“We love life, not because we are used to living but because we are used to loving.”**

Now getting more spiritual and closer to ones we know

MARTIN LUTHER KING

**In his pursuit to change the world he said: “I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”**

MARK LOWRY

**"Love the sinner, hate the sin? How about: Love the sinner, hate your own sin! I don't have time to hate your sin. There are too many of you! Hating my sin is a full-time job. How about you hate your sin, I'll hate my sin and let's just love each other!"**

**"We don't help people by showing them our trophies. We help them by showing them our scars."**

ELLEN WHITE

**“True love is not merely a sentiment or an emotion. It is a living principle, a principle that is manifest in action. True love, wherever it exists, will control the life. Thus it is with the love of God. "God is love;" and in all His works, in all His dealings with mankind, His character is revealed.”**

**“Love is a precious gift, which we receive from Jesus. Pure and holy affection is not a feeling, but a principle. . . Those who are actuated by true love are neither unreasonable nor blind. True love is a high and holy principle, altogether different in character from that love which is awakened by impulse, and which suddenly dies when severely tested.”**

## Bible texts about love:

Mark 12:31

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Romans 13:10

Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

*Proverbs 18:24; 27:6*

“There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Note the word “deeply” It is going to come up again. Also the word “covers” does not mean to hide or ignore. It is about not holding wrong against the person. This version of the text make is clearer. From the New Living Translation it says: “Most of all, love each other steadily and unselfishly, because love makes up for many faults.”

1 John 4:18-19

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.

## **How do we demonstrate love?**

God calls us to **EXPOSE** people to what we believe, not to **IMPOSE** it on them.

The Contagious Adventist

“The great message of the New Testament is that Jesus—the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, ascended, interceding, and returning Jesus—is Lord. Until people know that we **believe** Jesus is Lord, and **follow** Him as Lord, our distinctive truths will be understood out of context.”

“The great message of the New Testament is that Jesus—the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, ascended, interceding, and returning Jesus—is Lord. Until people know that we **love** Jesus, **and freely share that love with others**, our distinctive truths will be understood out of context.”

In 1965 the world was shaking. Violence, hatred, war, racism, political upheaval

was happening in many countries. Some musicians, trying to heal the world through music wrote special songs.

The first was by Hal David and Burt Bacharach:

“What the world needs now, Is love, sweet love  
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.  
What the world needs now, Is love, sweet love,  
No, not just for some but for everyone.”

Listen to the verses

“Lord, we don't need another mountain,  
There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb,  
There are oceans and rivers enough to cross,  
Enough to last 'til the end of time.

Lord, we don't need another meadow,  
There are cornfields and wheat fields enough to grow,  
There are sunbeams and moonbeams enough to shine,  
Oh listen Lord, if you want to know...oh...”

I wrote these lines

“Lord, we don't need another white sandy beach,  
Or groupers down deep in the sea to reach.  
We do not need more warm sunny days for tourist to bathe  
Nor first-class automobiles to drive down by the bay.

What The Bahamas needs now, Is love, sweet love,  
No, not just for some but for everyone.”

What The Bahamas needs now, **Is Jesus, sweet Jesus,**  
He's, not just for some but for everyone.”

That same year, 1965, Jamaica was going to some political strife. Bob Marley wrote a song, again trying to bring peace and love back to practice.

“One love, one heart  
Let's get together and feel all right”

As it was in the beginning (One love)  
So shall it be in the end (One heart)  
Alright, "Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right."  
"Let's get together and feel all right."

Both of these songs were written in response to national and international war, prejudice, hatred, and lack of love in society.

The Christian, the one who believes that Jesus is the author of love, should be able to at least, live a life of love. Remember 1 Peter 4:8 says

Above all, **love** each other **deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

This is not superficial love. It is deep love. What is deep love?

Our concluding texts are even more meaningful. It is an appeal to the people of Colosia. But can be important to us today

Colosians 3:14

**“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”**

Colosians 3:14

14: “And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Let us read the fully context to find out these virtues the writer is talking about.

Colosians 3:11-15

11. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

12. Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

13. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

14. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

15. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Remember the moisture?

- ☺ Unconditional acceptance  
*Regardless of income level, nationality, ethnicity, race*
- ☺ Unconditional loving
- ☺ An attitude of forgiveness
- ☺ A spirit of compassion and kindness
- ☺ A gentle spirit

When this happens there will be **perfect love** among us.

### **O Perfect Love**

*The word adapted for the congregation today*

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,  
Lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,  
That ours may be the love which knows no ending,  
Whom thou forevermore dost join in one.

Grant us the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;  
Grant us the peace which calms all earthly strife,  
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow  
That dawns upon eternal love and life.

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