

THE LAW OF LOVE *The Right Answer Every Time*

The Law of Love is the guiding motive behind every action of a Christian leader. (*II Cor. 5:14*)

The Right Question: *How would the love of God respond to this?*

The Right Answer: *The Law of Love is the highest law and will always be the right answer.*

I. The Law of Love Puts Others First

- The Good Samaritan - *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... and **love your neighbor** as yourself."* Lk. 10:27
 1. Jesus established our moral priority towards others in Luke 10:25-38 and clearly equated our love for God as seen in how we treat others.
 2. Our _____ to God is made payable to _____.
 3. Leadership Lessons From A Trick Question (*"Who is my neighbor?"*)
 - We show our love for God by how we treat others.
 - Jesus commended compassion, not religious rules.
 - Your neighbor is whoever needs help.
 - Your neighbor's needs transcend the politically correct and socially accepted status quo.
- Jesus teaches The Golden Rule

"Do to _____ as you would have others do to _____." Mt. 7:12

II. The Law Of Love Towards Younger Christians

- Jesus' Serious Warning Mt. 18:6, Mk. 9:42, Lk. 17:2

"But whoever causes one of these little ones to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone was hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

 1. Millstone -- circular stones used for grinding grain or other substance. The 20" version were used by women, but the larger, heavier versions, which were 6' x 8" required the strength of an animal and weighed up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a ton. Jesus referred to the larger version in Mt. 18:6
- Leadership Lessons
 1. How we live matters.
 2. Our actions influences others; especially those younger in the Lord
 3. Our actions influences others; especially those carnal or lacking spiritual maturity.
 4. Any action on the part of a Christian which would influence, encourage or aid a younger Christian to sin.
 5. When in doubt, don't.
 6. Young Christians are especially susceptible to being disillusioned by your complaints or critical attitudes towards spiritual leadership.

III. The Law Of Love Towards An Unbeliever

- *"You are the salt of the earth ..."* Mt. 5:13 Make them thirsty.
- People are watching you and hoping that you are authentic.
- *"Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."* Col. 4:5 NIV
- People don't care how much you _____ until they _____ how much you care.
- Real, unconditional love makes no sense to an unbeliever. It's God's magnet. Mt. 5:46-48

IV. The Law of Love In Believers is Revealing

- Reveals Spiritual Maturity
Ph. 2:4 - "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."
- Reveals an Eternal Perspective
- Reveals a Life of Lordship - you've chosen a life that pleases God and points others to Him
- Reveals a Life Above Reproach - *I Cor. 16:13, Ph. 2:15, I Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6-7*

V. The Law of Love Towards Those With Opposing Convictions

- The New Testament has many warnings and instructions towards those who disagree.
 1. Jesus said, *"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."* Mt. 5:44
 2. Paul said, *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."* Rom. 12:14
 3. *IF it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* Rom. 12:18
- Recognizing Their Philosophies Are Short-Lived Breed Compassion
"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Prv. 14:12

"At the name of Jesus _____ knee shall bow and _____ tongue shall confess that _____ to the glory of God the Father." Ph.2:9-11

People Whose Knees Have Already Bowed

Emperor Nero
Adolf Hitler
Michael Jackson
Osama bin Laden

People Whose Knees Will Someday Bow

Michael Jordan
Howard Stern
Sean Combs (P.Diddy)
Lady Gaga

VI. The Leadership School's Mandate

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong, and let all you do

_____. *I Cor.*
16:13

Answers: I. debt, man; others, you III. say, see V. every, every, Jesus is Lord VI. be done with love