

# *Living with the End in View*

## **1 Peter 4:7-11**

### PART THREE

#### **Introduction**

#### **A pattern for daily Christian living in a hostile world.**

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:22-24).

*“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers” (v7).*

#### **To be prepared for calamity, tragedy, affliction, or persecution we must be *trained in righteousness*:**

“solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:14).

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:11).

“everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40).

#### **The vulnerability of an undisciplined life.**

“Vulnerability” ‘The inability to withstand the effects of a hostile environment.’

#### **First line of defense in *living with the end in view*: “*be self-controlled and sober-minded*”**

***“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins” (v8).***

*“Above all”* i.e., ‘of supreme importance.’

Paul, after listing several Christian virtues to “put on”: “And above all these put on love” (Colossians 3:14).

*“keep loving one another earnestly/deeply (NIV)”* Gk *ektenes*; ‘to stretch out, or strain, to extend, continually, fervently, intensely’; “was used to describe the taut muscles of an athlete who strains to win a race.”

“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things” (1 Corinthians 9:25).

*“since/because love covers a multitude of sins.”* Gk *kalupto*; present, active, indicative.

#### **What *covering* sin does NOT mean:**

- 1) Dismiss it (fail to acknowledge it)
- 2) Disregard it (fail to acknowledge it as *sin*)
- 3) Disguise it (fail to acknowledge and address it)

“let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:20).

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses” (Proverbs 10:12).

“Hatred, however varnished by smooth pretense, is the selfish principle of man” (Chas. Bridges).

“Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends” (Proverbs 17:9).

**God’s love is a *holy-love*. It is impossible to know how to love if we do not understand or accept this.**

God is love (1 John 4:8, 16); God is light (1 John 1:5); God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29).

“God is holy” (Psalm 99:9); His “name is holy” (Isaiah 57:15); “holy is his name” (Luke 1:49).

**God has one character that is multidimensional. He is simultaneously, inseparably holy and loving.**

We can never know His love without viewing it in the context of His holiness.

God’s love, therefore, cleanses and purifies.

1 John 4:7-12

**His love and His holiness both seen working together on the cross.**

The objective of God’s love is to make the unclean *clean* because that is what love is and that is what love does.

**Embracing God’s love apart from His holiness breeds *license*. Embracing God’s holiness without His love breeds *legalism*.**

“*Legalism* lacks the supreme sense of worship, it obeys, but it does not adore” (Geerhardus Vos).

*License* lacks the supreme call of worship, it adores, but does not obey.

“The truth is that [God’s] love comes as part of his holiness and his holiness likewise permeates all that he is, including his love” (Wells).

“but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

“knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart” (1 Peter 1:22). **Love and holiness – *inseparable*.**

“‘Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.’ Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1).

**The desire: *love*. The objective: *holiness***

“the Lord disciplines the one he loves” (Hebrews 12:6).

“he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness” (Hebrews 12:10).

**Love covers sin, not because we *do* something. The effective principle is love itself, not us.**

“love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10).

Where the law has been fulfilled there is reconciliation.

“Love toward God is the sum of all requirements relative to him, and so likewise is it toward our brothers” (Leighton).

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.... Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:8, 10).

“In speaking of a new covenant [grace], he makes the first one obsolete [works]. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away” (Hebrews 8:13).

**Because of His undying love for us, Jesus fulfilled the law for us and paid the penalty for us on the cross.**

Fulfilling the law *for* us made reconciliation available *to* us because *that is what love does*.

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers” (1 John 3:16).

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

“love one another” 2<sup>nd</sup> person, plural, present, active, subjunctive.

“I have loved you” 1<sup>st</sup> person, singular, aorist, active, indicative.

**Love covers sin because that is what true divine love does.**

God does not love us because of what we are, or what we do, but because of who He is. *God is love*.

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1-2).

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:44-45).

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love” (1 John 4:7-8).

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:11-12). “Keep yourselves in the love of God” (Jude 21).

**Love, true biblical love whether of God or man, exercises the biblical/spiritual means to cover sin.**