

**INTRODUCTION**

**A. ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE** (*Westminster Confession & R.P. Testimony* chp.30, *On Church Censures*; no corresponding catechism questions; see *Book of Discipline in Constitution*; also see *Be Reconciled!* (24:June 2012) and *Church Discipline & Leprosy* (28 October 2012); outlines & audio of sermons at [reformedvoice.com](http://reformedvoice.com))

**B. REQUESTS FOR ISSUES, TOPICS, PASSAGES, ETC.** (send to [oswegorpc@hotmail.com](mailto:oswegorpc@hotmail.com); 517-630-6325, cell)

**I. THE NATURE OF LOVE**

**A. LOVE IS NEVER HAVING SAY YOU'RE ...** (Mt.18:15; see Ps.119:71; Heb.12:11)

**B. GOD'S TRUE LOVE** (Heb.12:6(Prov.3:11); Deut.8:5; Ps.118:18; Amos 3:2; see Gal.5:23; 2Tm.1:7; 3:17)

**C. CHRIST'S TRUE LOVE** (Rev.3:19; see Jn.13:23)

**D. PARENT'S TRUE LOVE** (Prov.13:24; Eph.6:4)

**E. HUSBAND'S TRUE LOVE** (see Eph.5:26 w/2Tm.3:17)

**F. SIBLING'S TRUE LOVE** (Prov.27:6; Mt.18:12f,15f; Gal.6:1; Jms.5:19f; Jude 1:23)

**G. SELF'S TRUE LOVE** (Prov.12:1; 1Tm.4:7 /Acts24:25; 1Cor9:25; Gal.5:23; 2Tm1:7; 2Pt1:6 /Col.3:9,10; 5f,12f)

**H. SUMMARY: THE DISCIPLES WHOM JESUS LOVES!** (Rev.3:19; see Jn.13:23; 35)

**II. THE RULE OF LOVE**

**A. THE WORD OF GOD** (2Tm.1:7; 3:17; see Rom.15:14; Gal.5:22f)

**B. SILENCE FOR FORBEARANCE IN ALL UNPLEASANTNESS** (Rom.14:1f; Col.3:13; Eph.4:2f)

**C. SPEECH FOR FORGIVENESS IN ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS** (Lk.17:3; Prov.27:6; Rom.15:14; Eph.4:15; see Jdgs.3:7-11)

**III. THE STEPS OF LOVE**

**A. INCREASING PUBLICITY**

1. *self-love* (Mt.7:1f(22:37); see 5:21f,23f)

2. *brotherly love* (Mt.18:15,16; Lk.17:3; Gal.6:1; 2Th.3:15; Jms.5:19f; Prov.27:6)

3. *official love* (Mt.18:17-20; see Dt.17:2f,8f; Ps.107:32; 2Chr.19:6; 1Th.5:12f; 1Tm.5:17; Heb.13:7,17; see Jn.20:22f; 2Tm.3:17)

**B. INCREASING SEVERITY**

1. *admonition/s* (Neh.9:26f; Acts 20:31; Rom.15:14; 1Cor.4:14; 1Th.5:14f; 2Th.3:15; Col.1:28; 3:16; Tt.2:15)

2. *rebuke/s* (Lk.17:3; see Ps.6:1; 106:9; Prov.13:1; 17:10; 28:23; Lk.4:35f; 1Tm.5:1,20; 2Tm.4:2)

3. *suspension* (2Th.3:6f,14f)

4. *excommunication* (Mt.18:17; 1Cor.5:4f; 1Tm.1:20; Tt.3:10)

**IV. THE GOALS OF LOVE**

**A. RESTORATION OF THE SINNER** (Mt.18:15,21,27; 2Cor.2:6f; Jms.5:19f; see Gal.6:1 w/5:22f)

**B. TREPIDATION OF THE FAITHFUL** (1Cor.10:11; Heb.4:11; 2Pt.2:6; Jude 1:7; see Acts 5:1f; Dt.28:25)

**C. PROTECTION OF THE HEALTHY** (1Cor.5:6f; Acts 20:30; see 1Cor.10:6f; Ex.23:2)

**D. VINDICATION OF CHRIST** (Rom.2:23f; Heb.6:6; Ps.50:21; see Ezk.20:9,14,22,44; 36:22)

**E. PRESERVATION OF THE PEACE** (Josh.22:20; Dt.21:1-9; Jer.4:4; see Ps.72:3,7; 85:10; see Eph.4:3,15)

**V. LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH TRUE LOVE!** (1Pt.1:22; Heb.12:5f; Mt.7:1; Eph.4:15; Prov.27:6; *contra* Rom.1:32; see Gal.6:1,9)

Discussion question:

*Brethren, what shall **WE do?*** (see Acts 2:37f)