

## Love Without Hypocrisy

By Jesse Larsen (written on May 2, 2007)

*“Let love be without hypocrisy.”*  
(Romans 12:9)

How do we "let love be without hypocrisy?" (Romans 12:9) God Himself is kind to the unthankful and evil (See Luke 6:35), and such a love can only come **through Him** if we are to *“be merciful just as [our] Father also is merciful”* (Luke 6:36). If our love is in the flesh, then it can only be self-love.

Dave Hunt explained it this way in his April 2007 newsletter: that the man who persuades a woman to live with him without marriage tells her, “I love you.” But what he may mean (perhaps unknown even to him) could be “I love myself, and I want *you*.” Only too late they may discover that this is what both of them mean by “love” (Dave Hunt, from his newsletter titled *Why Everything Is the Way It Is*).

Any fleshly attempt at love will be a vain attempt. And if my love truly has come from Christ, then I have no reason to be thinking, “Oh, what a wonderful loving person I am.” If I am in that state of mind and focusing on how great I am rather than **how great God is**, then I may be easily offended when someone does not see me as a loving person. In this situation, my focus will probably be self-defense rather than caring about what people think of God and **His love**. In this case of self-defense, my thoughts may be something like “How dare that person not see the love that I have for him! I am full of Christ's love!” That kind of love is obviously not for the other person but for self.

On the other hand, true love for God and others will have no burdens about self but many about others. We need to understand that this love comes **through God** and not from the flesh; only then will we love Him because He first loved us (See 1 John 4:19). Only the love flowing **from His heart** can love without hypocrisy.

*“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you...”* (John 13:34). “Even as I have loved you” is the command of Him who asks nothing that He has not provided and now offers to bestow. It is the assurance that He expects nothing from us that He does not **work in us**. Paraphrasing this Scripture, Jesus is saying, *“Even as I have loved you and every moment am pouring out that love upon you through the Holy Spirit, EVEN SO do ye love one another.”* The measure, the strength, and the work of the true love that is in us will only be found **in Christ's love for us** (Andrew Murray, *Like Christ*, 1895, p. 127).