



Love Covers

By Johnny Caruso on September 6, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Peter 4

1 Peter 4:8 is a challenge. How do we respond personally to people in our lives who are hard to love? God's command is simple. *"Above all, love each other earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."* The NIV version uses the word *deeply*. I actually prefer the use of that word because it helps me know how I am supposed to live. It is easy to relate it to Trish, my children, their husbands and especially my grandchildren.

How does loving someone cover their sins? Good question. I am glad you asked. Loving someone does not make what they do acceptable. Nor does it take away a person's responsibility for their own sins before God. What the Word is saying here is that if you can choose to love someone deeply, that love will help you forgive them for any wrongs they have done, especially the ones done to you, because you wish the best for them.

Love covers unkindness, selfishness, and rudeness, etc. It does not take away accountability, but it does take that burden off us and gives it to God, where it belongs. Now, I know this is easier said than done. We all have people in our lives who are hard to love, mostly because they do not really seem to love us. But what is easier: to constantly judge them, be hurt by them, feel you have to justify them, fix them, understand them, convince them, and tolerate them; OR just love them and leave the rest to God?

What God is asking us to do is radical and against our human nature (flesh). However, we need to wake up to the fact that our ways are not working. Choosing love is not just practical, it is life changing. Choosing to love is also our way of being obedient. Love makes up for practically anything. Love changes everything. Jesus did not just say this, He lived this. Jesus loved us to death. His love literally was enough to cover our sins. He chose to love us, and it changed everything.

This command will not just impact our personal relationships, but it could actually change the world. But it starts with us.

PRAYER: Lord helps us to love the way You loved us.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Peter 5

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