

WALKING IN THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

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No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right **is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.**

1 John 3:9,10

SIN AS THE FAILURE TO LOVE

“Love one another.”

9x in John's writings; 2x in Peter's; 1x in Paul's.

“John's moral instruction lacks specificity. His only rule is ‘love one another,’ and that rule is ‘both vague in application and narrowly circumscribed, being limited solely to those who are firmly within the Johannine circle.’” Wayne Meeks

Does John present any moral vision for Christian living?

THE PROBLEM WITH “LOVE”



God is love.

WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE,
LIVES IN GOD.

-1 John 4:16

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THE PROBLEM WITH LOVE

Editor's note: Each week, News-Press religion correspondent Bob Barber poses the questions and answers that tell the story

Silberhartz "had an experience in which I felt what is defined as love, or oneness, or God. It was a complete fulfillment."

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vision show that is
th season on KCTV,
n Coast, at 9:30 p.m.

rogram?

er and host is Allan
ashington, D.C. attorney, meditation
believer, meditation
er of meditation. Silberhartz is a long-time financial
consultant and investment adviser.

Q. What is the background of the TV program?

A. It began June 25, 1995, with Silberhartz and a co-host. He took over as sole host at the beginning of the fourth season.

To date, there have been 52 live one-hour shows, with about 90 guests, including

teaching teachers,
painters and

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"... our faith and deeds give us an experience of love and connectedness. The more good we do, the more experience we have with God, or love."... My message to the community is that "we are all made of love, God is love, and we are God."

profiles in faith

BOB BARBER

Silberhartz says that the only purpose of the program, which he calls a spiritual talk show/magazine, "is to speak to the uplifting of Spirit and to the Oneness in all life, without any specific spiritual or religious orientation."

This year, the program will be aired live every other Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m., and will repeat each Wednesday at 5 p.m. A Web page (www.heaventoearth.com) is being prepared and should be available soon, he says.

Q. What is the background of the host?

A. Silberhartz was born Feb. 28, 1947,

in a Jewish family. He was 13, but

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Washington

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early 1970s,
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il 1980, and
d Bar Asso-
ent and CEO
financial services

company in Maryland, before moving to California in 1980.

While in Maryland, he "had an experience in which I felt what is defined as love, or oneness, or God. It was a complete fulfillment, and I have since experienced it regularly." He says that he has no specific religious association but that his spiritual experience transcends traditional religious affiliations.

Except for a year in Ojai, he has lived in Santa Barbara since 1980. He does consultants in finance and investment. He has taught meditation to groups and individuals since 1985. Unmarried, he enjoys meditating, and plays golf, travels, and reads, mostly nonfiction.

Q. What is your outreach work?

A. "I send flyers on each of our programs to many cities, trying to get the message of love, oneness and togetherness to as many people as possible."

Q. What should we learn from our faith and deeds?

A. "Ultimately, our faith and deeds give us an experience of love and connectedness. The more good we do, the more experience we have with God, or love."

Q. What would you like the community to know about your television program?

A. "Everyone is invited to watch it with the hope that people will experience the love that connects them to all others."

Q. What is your personal goal in life?

A. "To experience more love, more compassion, more faith and more surrender."

Q. What is your message to the community?

A. "We are all made of love, God is love, and we are God."

Bob Barber is a Santa Barbara free-lance writer.

“Whoever lives in love
lives in God, and God in them.”

1 John 4:16

God is love \neq love is God

THE PROBLEM WITH “LOVE”

Several thin, white, parallel diagonal lines are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

God is love.

1 John 4:8,16

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

LOVE BEGINS WITH GOD

Several thin, white, parallel diagonal lines are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

“This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son into the world
that we might live through him. **This is love:** not
that we loved God, but that **he loved us and
sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our
sins.**”

1 John 4:9, 10

LOVE IS ALWAYS RELATED TO CHRIST

This is how we know that we **love** the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. **This is love** for God: to obey his commands. 1 John 5:2, 3

And this is **love**: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in **love**. 2 John 1:6

LOVE FOR GOD IS OBEDIENCE



JOHN 13

1 ...Jesus knew that the hour had come ...
Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

HOW JESUS DEFINES LOVE



“Teacher,” he asked, “***what must I do to inherit eternal life?***”

Luke 10:25-37

HOW JESUS DEFINES LOVE

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And **we ought to lay down our lives for one another.**

If any one of you has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in you? Dear children, let us not **love** with words or tongue but **with actions and in truth.**”
1 John 3:16 – 18

LOVE FOR OTHERS

How is providing for the needs of others a laying down of our lives?

LOVE FOR OTHERS

Love for others as Scripture defines it is...

... not a warm, fuzzy feeling toward others but, treating others in accordance with the 10 Commandments;

... a tangible response to the needs of others.

LOVE FOR OTHERS

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Love does not trump truth.

It is not loving to approve of what Scripture defines as sin.

You can love people even if you don't agree with their life choices.

THE PROBLEM WITH “LOVE”

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GAIUS

1 To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth....

6 They have told the church about your **love**. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. ...

12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

THE EXAMPLES OF GAIUS AND
DIOTREPHES: 3 JOHN

DIOTREPES



9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us.

10 ...what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. ..., he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good.

THE EXAMPLES OF GAIUS AND DIOTREPES: 3 JOHN

What is the LORD calling you to do?

To stop doing?

How will you use this day as an
opportunity to walk further in the
truth?

WALKING IN THE TRUTH:
AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP

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Am I believing rightly about Jesus Christ?

Am I dealing rightly with sin?

Do I love others rightly?

OUR QUESTIONS FOR SELF-
REFLECTION

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ZONDERVAN

Exegetical Commentary ON THE New Testament

I, 2, & 3 JOHN

KAREN H. JOBES

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General Editor



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A Survey of Hebrews and the General Epistles



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