
Love That Covers (A Multitude Of Sins)

Activating First Love

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Sermon: Activating First Love: Love That Covers (A Multitude Of Sins)

Lesson Text

1 Peter 4:7–8 (KJV)⁷ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. ⁸ And above all things have fervent charity (love) among yourselves: for charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins.

James 5:16 (KJV)¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (KJV)¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

Introduction

Activating “First Love” is about making a paradigm shift from being Passive to Active, from Submissive/Docile to Assertive, and from Reactive to Proactive.

Last week we looked at Perfected Love (Marking Perfect Love from the Role Model, Making Perfect Love from the Mentor, and Working Perfect Love from the Coach)

Today we will continue our journey of activating first love by looking at Love that Covers.

1 Peter 4:7 (NLT)⁷ The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.

Matthew 24: ¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³ But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Have you noticed that our world, especially social media, is about exposing each other’s failures. A whole industry has risen on social media from people who specialize in exposing prophets, bishops, pastors, and church folk (content creators or social media influencers).

Last week on my Podcast, I discussed a scenario of if your mate was unfaithful years ago, but repented before God and was now faithful, would you want to know?

Now I know the philosophy behind most people's thoughts, we shouldn’t cover bad behavior up.

Matthew 18: ¹⁵ **Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**

The question I have is, who benefits from all this exposure? Is God glorified, or is the church of Jesus Christ harmed?

The issue is not about covering up the sin of your brother (although that happens), it's about covering up your brother who may have gotten caught up in a sin.

Genesis 9: ²⁰ And Noah began *to be* an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: ²¹ And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. ²³ And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid *it* upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces *were* backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

1 Peter 4: 8 (NLT) ⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

The truth is we all have sinned, we all have failures, we all have offended each other, but do we have enough people with enough love to cover our nakedness until we can get it together.

Series and Sermon: Activating First Love: Love That Covers (A Multitude Of Sins)

(Love That Covers From Above, Love That Covers From Within, Love That Covers From Without)

I. Love That Covers From Above (Highest Priority)

1 Peter 4: ⁸ **And above all things** have fervent charity (love) among yourselves: for charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins.

In order to have a love that covers, we must cover each other from above. We must make love our highest priority.

Revelation 2: ⁴ **Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

First love here does not simply imply that Agape love is first and above all forms of love, but that it is first and above all things!

As Christians and church goers, too many of us have missed the message of prioritizing love.

We prioritize our gifts, titles, talents, and positions. We prioritize our things, money, wealth, accumulations. We prioritize our significance and importance. We prioritize our emotions, feelings, and how we are treated. We even prioritize our holiness and righteousness.

If we are to cover each other, our love must be above all at the highest priority!

John 13: ³⁴ **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.** ³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

Love above our gifts, talents, and positions: 1 Corinthians 13: ² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

Love above things, money, and wealth: Mark 8: ³⁶ **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**

Love above even our holiness and righteousness: Isaiah 64:6 (KJV)⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

1 Corinthians 13: ¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity (love).

II. Love That Covers From Within (Deepest Passion)

1 Peter 4: ⁸ And above all things **have fervent charity (love)** among yourselves: for charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins.

A love that covers must also cover each other from within. We must make love our deepest passion.

Fervent Charity here means deepest love or passion. This is about our desires, hunger, and thirst. It is also about our lusts, urges, anger, and rage.

When a person says that they love you, do they love you, or do they love what you do for them, what you give them, how you make them feel.

If what they love is what you do, what happens when you stop doing it, you stop giving, you no longer make them feel what they used to feel?

What happens when you make them angry, hurt, disappointed, or frustrated.

When people give up on God, it's usually because God is not doing what they expected.

If we are to cover each other, our love must come from within with the deepest passion!

Matthew 22: ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** ³⁸ **This is the first and great commandment.** ³⁹ **And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

Love from within with our prayers: James 5: ¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Love from within with our affection: Colossians 3: ¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

III. Love That Covers From Without (Multitude of Forgiveness)

1 Peter 4: ⁸ And above all things have fervent charity (love) among yourselves: **for charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins.**

- Love Covers from Above with the highest priority

Love That Covers (A Multitude Of Sins)

Page 4 of 5 (May 17, 2026)

- Love Covers from Within with the deepest passion
- Love Cover from Without with a multitude of forgiveness

Matthew 18: ²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

Too many of us have put limits on our love based on what people do to us:

- For some of us, people have one time to fail us, and we're done with them.
- Others, we will give them three strikes, but then they are out of there.
- Yet others are like people, we will give them the number of fulfillment.

If we are to cover each other, our love must come from without with a multitude of forgiveness!

Love from without because we've been given compassion: Lamentations 3: ²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Love from without because we've been given goodness and mercy: Psalm 23: ⁵ *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.* ⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

Love from without because we've been given the power: Philippians 4: ¹³ *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Love That Covers (A Multitude Of Sins))

Lesson Text

- 1 Peter 4:7-8; 1 James 5:16; 1 Corinthians 13:13

Sermon Outline

- I. Love That Covers From Above (Highest Priority)**
- II. Love That Covers From Within (Deepest Passion)**
- III. Love That Covers From Without (Multitude of Forgiveness)**

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Would you rather always have perfect summer weather and experience no winter, or keep the seasons, with the summers scorching hot?
2. What’s something God is doing in your life right now that you can’t fully see yet?

II. Into The Bible

1. In 1Peter 4:8, “fervent” carries the idea of being stretched out, constant, earnest, extended, which emphasizes the nature and consistency of love. In James 5:16, “effectual fervent” points more toward active, energized, working power, which emphasizes the active effectiveness of prayer. What differences do you notice between fervent love and fervent prayer in these passages, and how does each one function within the text?
2. Looking at 1Peter 4:7-8, James 5:16, 1 Corinthians 13:13 together, what do these passages emphasize about the importance of love, prayer, and relationships among believers?

II. Life Application

1. Reflection: *Why* do you love the Lord?
2. Consider whether love forgives before, at the time of, or after an offense. Could it be at more than one of these times?