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# Love That Covers, Part II (Restoring What Sin Tried To Destroy)

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## Activating First Love

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***Sermon: Activating First Love: Love That Covers, Part II (Restoring What Sin Tried To Destroy)***

***Lesson Text***

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

Genesis 3:3, 21 (KJV)<sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>21</sup> Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Matthew 11:4–6 (KJV)<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said unto them, **Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:** <sup>5</sup> **The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.** <sup>6</sup> **And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**

Luke 22:31–32 (KJV)<sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat:** <sup>32</sup> **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

***Introduction***

In our previous message, “Love That Covers,” we learned that Love covers from Above (Highest Priority), Love covers from Within (Deepest Passion), and Love covers from without (Multitude of Forgiveness).

This follow-up message moves beyond **covering** and into **restoring**.

We live in a world that believes exposing people changes them. But God shows us that loving people restores them.

In my previous sermon, I talked about how an entire industry has risen on social media devoted to exposing others for their failures. We can’t wait to “Spill the Tea” or “Dish the Dirt!”

Now although most of these guys are media whores trying to get click bait, some of them actually think they are doing the Lord’s work by exposing sin. But in reality, they are participating in Satan’s plot to use one’s sin to kill, steal, and destroy.

Many people misunderstand 1 Peter 4:8. Love covering sin does not mean pretending sin never happened. It does not mean enabling bad behavior. It does not mean removing accountability.

Love covers in the sense that it refuses to allow a person's worst moment to become their permanent identity.

Love sees the failure but also sees the future. Love sees the wound but also sees the healing. Love sees the fall but also sees the restoration.

The purpose of God's covering love is not concealment; it is for restoration.

Galatians 6: <sup>1</sup> Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

*"Love does not ignore sin. Love works through sin to restore people, preserve relationships, and reflect the grace of God."*

The assignment of the spiritual believer is not destruction; it's restoration.

Sin tried to destroy Adam and Eve, it tried to destroy John the Baptist, it tried to destroy Peter, and it tries every day to destroy us. But God's love covers what sin tries to destroy!

***Series and Sermon: Activating First Love: Love That Covers, Part II (Restoring What Sin Tried To Destroy)***

(Love Restores Us, Love Preserves Us, Love Lifts Us)

### ***I. Love Covers Our Sins (Restores Us)***

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

Love covers us when our sins would have destroyed us.

When we sin, our sins are designed to destroy us.

- Romans 6: <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death; ...
- John 10: <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ...**

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, their failure should have meant destruction.

Genesis 3:3 (KJV)<sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Genesis 3: <sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. <sup>7</sup> And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Just like Adam and Eve, when we sin, our first instinct is to try to cover it up; but it never works. Why? Because we can't hide from God.

**Love covers our sins so that we can be restored!**

Genesis 3: <sup>21</sup> Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Before God corrected them, He covered them. Before God disciplined them, He covered them.

Before God sent them out of the garden, He covered them.

Why? Because God doesn't want to destroy us, he wants to restore us, and restoration always begins with covering.

Many people want to expose others while they are still bleeding; embarrass them, shame them, humiliate them, and destroy them.

But God's love wants to help them, heal them, recover them, and restore them! Love seeks restoration, not humiliation.

- Romans 6: <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death; **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- John 10: <sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

## ***II. Love Covers Our Offenses (Preserves Us)***

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

Love covers us when our offenses would have destroyed us.

Luke 17: <sup>1</sup> Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

Just like failures are designed to destroy us, offenses are designed to destroy our relationships.

Matthew 11: <sup>2</sup> Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, <sup>3</sup> And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

If Jesus Christ could offend his own cousin, John the Baptist, you know we will offend each other. And unfortunately, these offenses can destroy our relationships.

Marriages are destroyed because of offenses, friendships are destroyed because of offenses, families are destroyed because of offenses, and ministries are destroyed because of offenses.

**Love covers our offenses so that our relationships can survive, be preserved!**

Matthew 11: <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said unto them, **Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**

There will always be offenses, misunderstandings, frustrations, and disappointments; so if our relationships are to survive, we must cover our offenses with love.

Proverbs 17: <sup>9</sup> He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends.

- Proverbs 17:9 (NIV)<sup>9</sup> Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Every marriage needs covering, every family needs covering, every friendship needs covering, and every church needs covering.

“Stop Counting And Start Covering!” Love does not keep score!

1 Corinthians 13: <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, **it keeps no record of wrongs.**

Relationships that survive are not the ones without problems or offenses, but the ones where the love is greater than the offense.

### ***III. Love Covers Our Failures (Lifts Us)***

1 Peter 4: <sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

- When we sin, love that covers restores us
- When we offend, love that covers preserves us
- When we fall, love that covers lifts us

When we fall, the enemy wants us to stay down, never to rise again.

Peter was a failure who denied Jesus three times when Jesus needed him the most. He was down, but he didn't stay down.

Luke 22: <sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

Peter failed, but love lifted him up to become a preacher.

Peter denied Christ, but love lifted him up to declare God's glory.

Peter sinned, but love lifted him to lead thousands to Christ.

Sin will cause us to fall, offenses will cause us to fall, failure will cause us to fall, but God's love will cover us so that we can rise up again.

Proverbs 24: <sup>16</sup> For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Micah 7: <sup>8</sup> Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD *shall be* a light unto me.

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Love That Covers, Part II (Restoring What Sin Tried To Destroy))**

**Lesson Text**

- 1 Peter 4:7-8; Genesis 3:3, 21, Matthew 11:4–6, Luke 22:31–32

**Sermon Outline**

- I. *Love Covers Our Sins (Restores Us)***
- II. *Love Covers Our Offenses (Preserves Us)***
- III. *Love Covers Our Failures (Lifts Us)***

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

**I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. If you could restore any one item in your home right now, what would it be?
2. When a project becomes difficult, do you stick to the original plan or try to find a work around?

**II. Into The Bible**

1. In what ways does refusing to keep a record of wrongs lead to emotional restoration? Reference 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.
2. Proverbs 19:11 says it is to a person’s glory to overlook an offense. How can we distinguish between a minor personal slight that can be covered by love and overlooked, and a serious sin that requires loving confrontation? Use scriptures for reference.

**II. Life Application**

1. Which is harder for you to receive from God: restoration after sin, grace after failure, or forgiveness after an offense?
2. Is there a failure, offense, or past mistake that you’ve allowed to keep you down? What would it look like to accept God’s covering love and take one step forward this week?