

***Loving the Lord and Loving One Another—the Most Excellent Way for Us to Be Anything and Do Anything for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ*****Monday 1/2****Related Verses****2 Thes. 1:3**

3 We ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers, even as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly and the love of each one of you all to one another is increasing,

**Titus 3:15**

15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in faith. Grace be with you all.

**1 Tim. 1:14**

14 And the grace of our Lord superabounded with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

**Gal. 5:6**

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything nor uncircumcision, but faith avails, operating through love.

**Eph. 6:23-24**

23 Peace to the brothers and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility.

**Related Reading**

Through faith we receive the Lord (John 1:12), and through love we enjoy the Lord whom we have received (John 14:21, 23; 21:15-17). (1 Tim. 1:14, footnote 2)

[The] subjective faith, the act of our believing,...brings us into an organic union with the Lord...and operates through love (Gal. 5:6). It is in the element and operation of this faith that the saints who were one with the Lord in His concern loved the suffering and faithful apostle. (Titus 3:15, footnote 1)

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Faith and love are two inseparable, excellent virtues of the believers in Christ. Faith is given to us by God (2 Pet. 1:1, footnote 5) that by it we may receive Christ (John 1:12), the embodiment of the Triune God (Col. 2:9), and thereby enter into the Triune God and be joined to Him as one, having Him as our life, life supply, and everything. Love issues out of such a wonderful faith and

enables us to live out all the riches of the Triune God in Christ with those who have believed into Christ with us, that the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—may have a glorious expression. Faith is for appreciating, substantiating, and receiving the unlimited riches of the Triune God; love is for experiencing, enjoying, and living out the immeasurably rich Triune God. Faith is for the believers to be joined to the Triune God, who is everything to them; love is for the believers to minister and transmit the Triune God to their fellow believers so that, in such a wonderful and powerful faith, all the believers may love one another with divine, transcendent love and live a corporate life in Christ.

The Epistle to Titus...concludes with the wonderful faith and the super-excellent love. This implies that, in the current of the church's degradation, in order to be able to effectively stand firm and overcome the downward trend and factor in the church, this wonderful faith and this super-excellent love are indispensable. We should not walk by sight or care for the outward situation. Rather, in this wonderful faith we should enjoy its source, which is the Triune God, to whom we have been joined through this faith, and by this super-excellent love of the Triune God we should love Him and all those who belong to Him. Only in this way can we become, in the current of the church's degradation, the overcomers whom the Lord is calling and is desiring to obtain in Revelation 2 and 3.

This wonderful faith and this super-excellent love are out of the Triune God, who earnestly desires to be joined to us to be our everything...When we contact this Triune God through prayer and by looking to Him, by means of our spirit,...He infuses Himself into us in many ways to become the faith within us toward Him and the love outside of us toward those who belong to Him. Such faith and such love are the reality and expression (1 John 4:8, 16) of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—in whom we believe and whom we worship and receive...Such faith and love are connected and go together: love comes from faith, and faith operates and works through love (Gal. 5:6). Love with faith enables us to love our Lord in incorruptibility so that we may have an overcoming church life (Eph. 6:23-24) for the fulfillment of God's New Testament economy in Christ for the church. Therefore, it is in this faith that we are

well pleasing to God (Heb. 11:6) and in this love that we are blessed of the Lord (1 Cor. 16:22). May this love with this faith be to the brothers from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 6:23). (Titus 3:15, footnote 1)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1972, vol. 1, "Life and Building as Portrayed in the Song of Songs," chs. 1-2

**Corporate Reading:** *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 4, section(s): A Bird's Eye View of the Gospel of John

**Tuesday 1/3****Related Verses****Eph. 5:25**

25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

**2 Cor. 5:14-15**

14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;  
15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

**Eph. 4:15-16**

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

**Rev. 2:4-5**

4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.  
5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

**Psa. 27:4**

4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; That do I seek: To dwell in the house of Jehovah All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Jehovah, And to inquire in His temple.

***Loving the Lord and Loving One Another—the Most Excellent Way for Us to Be Anything and Do Anything for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ*****Related Reading**

Christ is a church-loving Christ. Galatians 2:20 says that Christ loved me and gave Himself up for me. Although Christians pay attention to this verse, they may not also pay attention to Ephesians 5:25, where we are told that Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for the church.

We all need to enjoy Christ and to experience Him as the church-loving Christ. Because we also love the church, we are one with Him for the spread of His recovery throughout the world and back to Jerusalem. Oh, how Christ loves the church! He is in us as the church-loving Christ. His love for the church makes us willing to give our all for the recovery of the church life. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 662-663, 666)

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The Lord charges us to overcome all kinds of religion, and in these seven epistles [Rev. 2—3] He also charges us to overcome some other matters. The first thing we are charged to overcome is the leaving,...the losing, of the first love (2:4-5a).

To have the first love is to give the preeminence, the first place, to the Lord Jesus in everything, even in all the small things. When the brothers buy a tie, they need to give Christ the preeminence. When the sisters go shopping, they need to give Christ the first place. When the Saturday edition of the newspaper comes out, some sisters like to read it to find all the sales in the department stores. To have this practice means that they do not give the Lord the preeminence. They do not let the Lord have the first place in their shopping. If we need something, we should go to the store to get that thing and nothing else. The sisters need to overcome the temptation of the department stores. (CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 4, “The Overcomers,” pp. 201, 211)

In 2 Corinthians 5:14 Paul says that “the love of Christ constrains us.” Because the love of Christ constrained him, Paul was a person who lived to the Lord (v. 15)...We must be persons carried away by the love of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Paul tells us that the dying love of Christ is like the rushing of great waters toward us, impelling us to live to Him beyond our own control. To be constrained is similar to being carried

away by a tide of water. The love of Christ is as strong as a tide of water which overcomes us and carries us away. We need to be flooded by the love of Christ. We need to be constrained by His love so that we have no choice. We should be able to say, “I have no other way to go. I have to love the Lord because His love has constrained me. What can I do?” When the flood waters come, we do not have a choice as to whether we will receive them or not. The flood waters give us no choice. We all have to be constrained by the love of Christ in such a way.

The young saints among us need to realize that although they love the Lord today, they are still at the crossroads of their Christian experience. There are many directions for them to choose, to take. They may have many choices, but once they are flooded by the love of Christ, they lose all the choices.

You should not live anymore by what you are or by what you can do. You have to live by the eternal life, which is Christ Himself, and you have to be so ambitious to please Him. You also have to be flooded and carried away by the constraining love of Christ and learn how to recognize things, how to discern things, not by outward appearance but by the inward measure of Christ in the spirit. Then you will be the ambassador of Christ representing His authority and interest on this earth. (CWWL, 1967, vol. 2, “An Autobiography of a Person in the Spirit,” pp. 173-175)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 79; CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 4, “The Overcomers,” chs. 2-3

**Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 4, section(s): The Mystery of the Divine Trinity in John 14**

Wednesday 1/4

**Related Verses**

**1 John 4:8, 19**

8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

19 We love because He first loved us.

**1 Cor. 12:31**

31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.

**1 Cor. 13:4-8, 13**

4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;

5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;

6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never falls away. But whether prophecies, they will be rendered useless; or tongues, they will cease; or knowledge, it will be rendered useless.

13 Now there abide faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Related Reading**

We are God's species because we have been born of Him to have His life and nature (John 1:12-13). We have been regenerated to be God's species, God's kind, and God is love. Since we become God in His life and nature, we also should be love. This means that we do not merely love others but that we are love itself. As His species, we should be love because He is love.

God is love; we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:8, 19). God does not want us to love with our natural love but with Him as our love. God created man in His image (Gen. 1:26), which means that He created man according to what He is...God created man according to His attributes, the first of which is love. Although created man does not have the reality of love, there is something in his created being that wants to love others. Even fallen man has the desire within him to love. But that is just a human virtue, the very expression of the divine attribute of love. When we were regenerated, God infused us with Himself as love. We love Him because He first loved us. He initiated this love. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, “The Vital Groups,” p. 121)

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***Loving the Lord and Loving One Another—the Most Excellent Way for Us to Be Anything and Do Anything for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ***

To fulfill the obligations of a co-worker or an elder, you need to have a pure heart, purified from any form of subtle ambition in intention, purpose, motive, and action in the Lord's recovery...Only those who are humble without ambition can be used by the Lord, can receive gifts from the Lord, and can be entrusted with the Lord's ministry.

We should never hunt to be the first in any work for the Lord. In the church, sometimes we need to arrange for certain ones to bear certain responsibilities. Those who are not assigned may act outwardly as if they do not care, revealing nothing either in their tone or in their expression, yet inwardly they are depressed and unhappy. This is the insidious work of hidden ambition to compete with others to be the first.

First, we need to beware of ambition, and second, we need to beware of pride. Pride is an attribute of our fallen nature by birth. God has His attributes, and we have ours...Who is not proud? Whoever is not proud is good for nothing. In the Lord's work, however, we must try our best to guard against pride.

Always remember that humility saves you from all kinds of destruction and invites God's grace for you. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). If you are humble, grace comes. If you are proud, grace goes away; you have hindered grace...To be proud is to be a top fool.

Rivalry in the Lord's work [is] not only a sign of ambition but also a sign of pride. We often are in rivalry with people in the Lord's work...We all must admit that we are unprofitable servants [Luke 17:10]. We should neither compare ourselves to nor compete with others.

Referring to your capacity, success, perfection, and virtue is a careless form of pride...Instead, always say to the Lord, "Lord, I don't have any capacity, nor do I have any success in Your work. Furthermore, I don't have any perfection; all that I have is imperfection. Also, I don't have any virtue; all that I have is failure." This will preserve you from becoming proud.

To think more highly of oneself than one ought to think is another form of pride [Rom. 12:3].

Wanting to be great and not to be a servant and wanting to be the first and not to be a slave are also a sign of pride [Matt. 20:26-27].

In addition, we must see that self-boasting, self-exaltation, self-glorification, and lusting after vainglory are all ugly and base expressions of pride (Gal. 5:26). (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "How to Be a Co-worker and an Elder and How to Fulfill Their Obligations," pp. 270-271, 273-276)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "How to Be a Co-worker and an Elder and How to Fulfill Their Obligations," ch. 4; CWWN, vol. 57, pp. 239-240

**Corporate Reading: *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 4, section(s):** Four Steps Taken by the Word in His Relationship with Man

**Thursday 1/5****Related Verses****1 Cor. 12:31**

**31** But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.

**1 Cor. 13:13**

**13** Now there abide faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**2 Tim. 1:6-7**

**6** For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

**7** For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

**Matt. 5:48**

**48** You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Rom. 12:11**

**11** Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

**1 Cor. 9:22**

**22** To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak. To all men I have become all things that I might by all means save some.

**Eph. 5:2**

**2** And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

**Related Reading**

We should be like God in our love for others...If we love only those who love us, we are of the same species as the tax collectors. But we are of the super, divine species, so we love the evil ones, our enemies, as well as the good ones. This shows how God as love prevails.

A proof that our vital group is prevailing is that we love people without any discrimination. Some Christian co-workers may feel that we should let certain persons suffer eternal perdition. They may say that they would not love certain persons, such as bank robbers. But while Christ was being crucified on the cross, two robbers were crucified with Him (Matt. 27:38). One of them said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (v. 43). The first one saved by Christ through His crucifixion was not a gentleman but a criminal, a robber, sentenced to death. This is very meaningful. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," pp. 122-123)

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The spirit that God has given us is our human spirit regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This spirit is a spirit of love; hence, it is of power and of sobermindedness (2 Tim. 1:7). We may think that we are very powerful and sober, but our spirit is not of love.

Paul says that we need to fan our gift into flame (v. 6). The main gift that God has given us is our regenerated human spirit with His Spirit, His life, and His nature. We must fan this gift into flame. This means that we have to stir up our spirit so that our spirit will be burning. Romans 12:11 says that we should be burning in spirit...We must have a burning spirit of love, not a burning spirit of authority, which damages. Whatever is mentioned in 2 Timothy is a requirement for us to face the degradation of the church...Under today's degradation of the church, we all need a spirit of love fanned into flame to be burning in spirit. Love prevails in this way.

***Loving the Lord and Loving One Another—the Most Excellent Way for Us to Be Anything and Do Anything for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ***

We need a spirit of love to conquer the degradation of today's church. We should not say or do anything to threaten people. Instead, we should always say and do things with a spirit of love, which has been fanned into flame. This is what the recovery needs.

The end of 1 Corinthians 12 reveals that love is the most excellent way (v. 31b). How can one be an elder? Love is the most excellent way. How can one be a co-worker? Love is the most excellent way. How do we shepherd people? Love is the most excellent way. Love is the most excellent way for us to prophesy and to teach others. Love is the most excellent way for us to be anything or do anything.

Love prevails. We should love everybody, even our enemies. If the co-workers and elders do not love the bad ones, eventually, they will have nothing to do. We must be perfect as our Father is perfect (Matt. 5:48) by loving the evil ones and the good ones without any discrimination. We must be perfect as our Father because we are His sons, His species...The Lord Jesus said that He came to be a Physician, not for the healthy ones but for the sick ones. The Lord said, "Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill" (9:12).

Paul said, "To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak" (1 Cor. 9:22). That is love. We should not consider that others are weak but we are not. That is not love. Love covers and builds up, so love is the most excellent way for us to be anything and to do anything for the building up of the Body of Christ. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," pp. 124-127)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," msg. 8

**Corporate Reading:** *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 4, section(s): He Who Has Seen the Son Having Seen the Father; the Son Being in the Father, and the Father Being in the Son

**Friday 1/6****Related Verses****John 21:16**

16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.

**1 Pet. 5:2-4**

2 Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion but willingly, according to God; not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly;

3 Nor as lording it over your allotments but by becoming patterns of the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

**John 10:10b, 11**

10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

**Acts 20:28**

28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

**Heb. 13:20**

20 Now the God of peace, He who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant,

**1 Pet. 2:25**

25 For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**Related Reading**

The entire [Gospel of John] covers the earthly ministry of Christ, beginning with His incarnation as the Word of God to become a man in the flesh (1:1-14) and ending with His resurrection as the last Adam to become the life-giving Spirit (ch. 20); hence, chapter 21 should be an appendix. Although it is correct to say this, it is

more intrinsic to say that John 21 is the completion and consummation of the Gospel of John...It consummates the entire Gospel of John by showing that Christ's heavenly ministry and the apostles' ministry on the earth cooperate together to carry out God's New Testament economy. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, "Crystallization-study of the Gospel of John," p. 446)

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In John 10:10, 11, and 16 the Lord unveiled to the disciples that He was the good Shepherd who came that the sheep might have life abundantly and that He had other sheep (the Gentiles) that He must lead to join with them (the Jewish believers) to be one flock (one church) under one Shepherd.

First, the Lord's shepherding was in His earthly ministry (Matt. 9:36). The Lord saw the Israelites as sheep harassed by their leaders; they were cast away like sheep not having a shepherd. The Lord as the Shepherd of God's elect prayed, and God told His sent One to appoint twelve apostles that they might take care of the sheep of God (10:1-6).

Second, the Lord's shepherding is in His heavenly ministry (1 Pet. 5:4) to take care of the church of God, issuing in His Body. When He was on the earth, He was shepherding. After His resurrection and ascension to the heavens, He is still shepherding.

When the Lord stayed with His disciples after His resurrection and before His ascension, in one of His appearances, He commissioned Peter to feed His lambs and shepherd His sheep in His absence, while He is in the heavens (John 21:15-17). Shepherding implies feeding, but it includes much more than feeding. To shepherd is to take all-inclusive tender care of the flock.

This is to incorporate the apostolic ministry with Christ's heavenly ministry to take care of God's flock, which is the church that issues in the Body of Christ.

In Acts 20:28 Paul told the elders of Ephesus, "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained [or, purchased] through His own blood."

***Loving the Lord and Loving One Another—the Most Excellent Way for Us to Be Anything and Do Anything for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ***

Paul says in Hebrews 13:20, “God...brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant.” The eternal covenant is the covenant of the new testament to gain a flock, which is the church issuing in the Body and consummating the New Jerusalem.

Peter...tells the believers that they were like sheep being led astray, but they have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer (Christ) of their souls (1 Pet. 2:25). Christ’s shepherding of His flock includes His caring for their outward things and also their inner being, their souls...He shepherds us by caring for the welfare of our inner being and by exercising His oversight over the condition of our soul, our real person.

Peter exhorts the elders to shepherd the flock of God among them so that when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, they, the faithful elders, will receive the unfading crown of glory (5:1-4).

Peter’s word indicates that the heavenly ministry of Christ is mainly to shepherd the church of God as His flock, which issues in His Body. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, “Crystallization-study of the Gospel of John,” pp. 446-448)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, “Crystallization-study of the Gospel of John,” msg. 13

**Corporate Reading:** *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 4, section(s): The Son Speaking While the Father Was Working; the Father and the Son Coinhering...

**Saturday 1/7**

**Related Verses****Psa. 23:1**

1 Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing.

**2 Cor. 7:3-4**

3 I do not say this to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts for our dying together and our living together.

4 Great is my boldness toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with comfort, I overflow with joy in all our affliction.

**2 Cor. 12:15**

15 But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?

**Eph. 4:1-2, 11-12**

1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,  
2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,

12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

**Philem. 7, 12**

7 For I had much joy and encouragement over your love, because the inward parts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

12 Him I have sent back to you -- him, that is, my very heart --

**Related Reading**

Psalms 22—24 are a group of psalms revealing Christ from His crucifixion to His kingship in the coming age. In Psalm 22 we see Christ’s death, His resurrection, and His many brothers produced in His resurrection to form His church. Psalm 23 is concerning Christ as the Shepherd. This Shepherd today is in His resurrection. Psalm 24 is concerning Christ as the coming King in God’s kingdom. Thus, in these three psalms, we have Christ crucified, Christ resurrected, Christ producing the church, Christ being the Shepherd and shepherding His flock, the church, and Christ coming back to be the King. (Life-study of the Psalms, p. 137)

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What we have in 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 is the intimate concern of the ministering life. Every believer who loves the Lord and who wants to come up to God’s standard should become a minister of the new covenant...Such a minister is a person who supplies Christ to others for the building up of the church, His Body...The goal of the Lord’s recovery today is to recover this ministering of Christ by all the believers so that the church may be built up. This understanding is based on Paul’s word in

Ephesians 4, where he says that the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers perfect the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ. For us all to be church builders, to minister Christ for the building up of the church, we need a ministering life,...a life of ministering Christ to others for the church.

The ministering life we see in 2 Corinthians is a fruitful life...In the Gospel of John the Lord does not tell us to be spiritual, holy, and victorious. Rather, in John 15 He charges us to bear fruit, even to bear much fruit, abiding fruit. This is to live a ministering life.

In the shepherding of the saints, it is...possible that we may kill others. The reason for this killing, this fruitlessness, is the lack of intimate concern...We may visit a family to shepherd them, but we may not have any loving concern. Rather, our motive may be to display our knowledge, spirituality, gift, or capability. The result is a killing.

If we have ability to carry on a work but lack an intimate concern, our work will be fruitless...How fruitful we are, how much fruit we bear, does not depend on what we are able to do. It depends on whether or not we have an intimate concern.

Paul was very human and emotional in his ministering of life. Paul was so emotional because his concern was so deep and intimate. Without this kind of concern, we could never be abundantly rejoicing in the way Paul was. Instead, we may be as cold as a freezer, altogether lacking in concern for the saints. Instead of warming up others, we make them even colder. Nothing can grow when it is in such a frozen condition. We need the weather of spring to come to thaw us out and warm up our life. Once again there is a need for a ministering life. Do you know what a ministering life is? It is a life that warms up others. Learn to warm others. This is to have an intimate concern for them.

If we do not have this kind of concern for others, we shall not be fruitful. If I would minister life to the saints, I must have a genuine concern for them, a concern that is emotional, deep, and intimate. I must be so concerned that, at times, I may appear to others to be foolish or beside myself.

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Only the ministering life enables us to bear fruit. Fruit-bearing is the issue of a ministering life. (Life-study of 2 Corinthians, pp. 379-384, 386)

Further Reading: Life-study of the Psalms, msg. 11-12; Life-study of 2 Corinthians, msg. 44

**Corporate Reading:** *The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, chapter 4, section(s): Those Who Believe into the Son Doing Greater Works—Dispensing Christ through Speaking

**Lord's Day 1/8****Related Verses****Psa. 23:1-6**

1 Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing.  
 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside waters of rest.  
 3 He restores my soul; He guides me on the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.  
 4 Even though I walk Through the valley of the shadow of death, I do not fear evil, For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, They comfort me.  
 5 You spread a table before me In the presence of my adversaries; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.  
 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me All the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah For the length of my days.

**John 21:12-13, 15-17**

12 Jesus said to them, Come and have breakfast. But none of the disciples dared to inquire of Him, Who are you? knowing that it was the Lord.  
 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise.  
 15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.  
 16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.  
 17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

**Further Reading:**

*CWWL, 1994–1997*, vol. 5, “How to Be a Co-worker and an Elder and How to Fulfill Their Obligations,” ch. 4

**Hymns, #431**

- 1 Thy mighty love, O God, constraineth me,  
 As some strong tide it presseth on its way,  
 Seeking a channel in my self-bound soul,  
 Yearning to sweep all barriers away.
- 2 Shall I not yield to that constraining power?  
 Shall I not say, O tide of love, flow in?  
 My God, Thy gentleness hath conquered me,  
 Life cannot be as it hath hither been.
- 3 Break through my nature, mighty, heavenly love,  
 Clear every avenue of thought and brain,  
 Flood my affections, purify my will,  
 Let nothing but Thine own pure life remain.
- 4 Thus wholly mastered and possessed by God,  
 Forth from my life, spontaneous and free,  
 Shall flow a stream of tenderness and grace.  
 Loving, because God loved, eternally.