


11-1-1942

Sermon outline for "Brotherly Love"

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Recommended Citation

Brotherly Love sermon outline dated 1 November 1942, Box 11, Folder Sermons Union Avenue Church May 1942, Edward Washington McMillan Papers, 1863-1986. Center for Restoration Studies MS #17. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

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BROTHERLY LOVE - I John 4:8
(Sunday morning, Nov. 1, 1942)

A. INTRODUCTION: There should be no apology given for preaching on love. Rather, preachers should apologize for not preaching on it.

B. LOVE PRESENTED

I. Commanded

1. John 15:12 - "This is my commandment, that ye love one another; as I have loved you."
2. I Thess. 4:9 - "Ye are taught of God to love one another."
3. I Pet. 1:22 - "Love one another with a pure heart fervently."
4. I Pet. 2:17 - "Honor all men, love the brethren."
5. I John 3:11 - "This is the message which ye had from the beginning, that ye should love one another."
6. Eph. 5:2 - "Walk in love, as Christ loved us."
7. Heb. 13:1 - "Let brotherly love continue."

II. It is sentimental and cultural

1. Rom. 12:10 - "Be kindly affectioned one to another."
2. Eph. 4:32 - "Be kind, tender-hearted to one another."
3. Col. 2:2 - "Let brotherly love continue."
4. Love is the motive which gives character. Where power might complete an act, every stroke of which was filled with bitterness; but love gives beneficence.

C. LOVE'S MANIFESTATIONS: Many people considering and silent.
Is never stern, but rather negative, easy-going.

I. Sternness in God's love

1. "Whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth ...receiveth."
2. Do it is in our love also.

II. Love both robes and unrobes.

1. Crowns us with honor, crushes us to keep us humble.
2. Adorns us with foliage, prunes us for better fruit-bearing.
3. Ascends on heights to kiss tenderest leaves; descends to deepest roots to loosen the soil about them.
4. Quotations:
"Love threshes you to make you naked."
"He sifts you to free you from husks."
"He grinds you to whiteness."
"He kneads you until you are pliant; then he

assigns you to his sacred fire, that you may become sacred bread for God's sacred feast."

III. But love is refreshing in the heart which has it

1. It is like a refreshing spring to slake the thirst.
2. It is happy to bleed out peaceful when tired from humble service.
3. Its mornings dawn with cheerful prospects of labor; its evenings come with gratitude for being tired from work for another, and its night-dreams are peaceful from the prayerful confidence that it has been helpful to others.

IV. Conclusion: Love for others is the living wish to be helpful toward other people, and its greatest joys come from believing that it has added to the comforts of as many as it possibly could.