

Love Covers All

Proverbs 10:12

Charlie Brackett

Do you feel life's tension and strife? It is hard to avoid it. As man pursues the advance of civilization, life becomes more and more complex. There are more options, more choices, out of which grow more desires. The growing technology intended to serve man's needs, to make life healthier, more fulfilling and happier has needs of its own. It must be learned and operated. And, it is never stable. It must be maintained and advanced. With a technology designed to simplify life comes technology's own set of problems. Each new device designed to satisfy man's needs brings with it a whole set of new desires, new "needs", as it were, which, in turn, send out a new cry to be satisfied. Thus the robots of man's creation take their toll on the creator. Made to serve, they demand to be served. As you and I spend time, energy and temperament in the pursuit of modern life, we inevitably feel the pressure and the thing created molds us as its slave.

The outside world is stressful and its tension spills over into more important arenas of life: the pleasant association of good neighbors, the close fellowship of saints in Christ, the inner circle of family, the precious bond of love. The world's demands make us suspicious and distrustful, and life's hecticness makes us edgy and irritable. We snap and bite, reacting to the pressure of life around, and end up devouring those most dear within. What's the answer?

Well, I believe one answer can be found in a wise saying of Solomon. Proverbs 10:12, just nine words, hit us all right where we live. We've all experienced both the good and the bad of which it speaks. Most of us, at one time or another, have been the cause of both the good and the bad. Listen as Solomon speaks.

Hatred stirs up strife,
But love covers all transgressions.

Solomon presents for us two opposing courses, love being the superior. The absence of love is a degree of hate and hatred of one's neighbor is a sin. But more than that, hate fosters hate on the part of others. It stirs up ill feelings and dissension and these easily erupt into factions and feuds.

Love, on the other hand, covers not only little slights and grievances, but is the ground from which springs forgiveness of greater sins of every kind. Love is quick to see the good in everyone and to excuse when possible because of mitigating circumstances. Sins which cannot be excused are quickly pardoned when asked because of love's attitude. Thus, Solomon said, love covers all transgressions.