

Copyright © information:  
© 2001 Project WorldReach © 2001 SEAN  
all rights reserved

## **Train & Multiply™**

Project WorldReach (T&M™ ministry operation)  
Dr. George Patterson (Originating Author)  
SEAN International



Contact: **Project WorldReach PWR™**

474 - 800 - 15355 - 24th Ave  
Surrey BC, Canada  
V4A 2H9

E-mail: [pwr@trainandmultiply.com](mailto:pwr@trainandmultiply.com)

Website: <http://www.trainandmultiply.com>

053EN01A-01

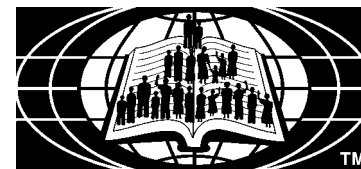
# **Love in Action**



**Pastoral Leader Training Booklet**

# **53**

**Train & Multiply™**



**T&M™**

The purpose of this study is that love be perfected in your church. Pray that this may be so.

Please examine carefully each verse in 1 Corinthians 13.

We need more love towards:

- God, (Matthew 22:37)
- Our brothers in Christ, (1 John 3:11)
- Our spouse, (Ephesians 5:33)
- Relatives and friends, (Romans 12:10)
- Our neighbor, (Matthew 22:39)
- The society in which we live, (Romans 13:1-10)
- Our enemies. (Matthew 5:43-44)

## PRACTICAL WORK

- Pray for the members, so that they may be rooted and established in love. (Ephesians 3:17)
- Teach the congregation to love God, each other and outsiders, in practical ways. (Use 1 Corinthians 13.)
- Learn by heart Romans 12:10.
- If any members do not get along, counsel them to get together and learn to love each other.
- Do some workers have problems or feel discouraged?

If so, spend time with them, to build the same love, encouragement and mutual support there was between the Apostle Paul and his disciple Timothy. The extension of the Kingdom of God depends on this sort of love between leaders.

As a parent, in what practical way can you show more love for your children?

---

As husband or wife, in what practical way can you show more love for your spouse?

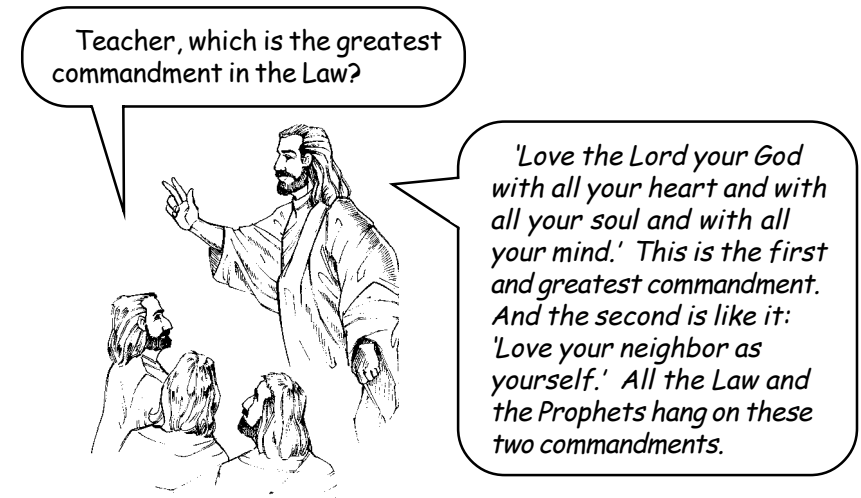
---

Think of things your church should do, to encourage more love among the members. Sometimes, when there have been problems between members, there are good results from having a “reconciliation agreement.” All the members promise to forgive and forget past offences. They promise to stop arguing and criticizing. They commit themselves to love each other. After this, any member who persists in causing division is disciplined.

It is also important to have fellowship activities (outings, meals together, etc.), so that members get to know and help each other.

## LOVE

A teacher of the law tried to set a trap for Jesus. (Matthew 22:34-40)



To fulfill all commandments, first we love:

- ☐ our enemy.
- ☐ God.

If we love God, above everything and everyone else, our love for others will grow, too.

When we know Christ as our savior, the Holy Spirit helps us to love God with our whole heart.

Christian love is not just a feeling. It is a decisive act of obedience. It is not the feeling a young man has for his bride. Everybody, even dogs and horses, feel natural affection.

How should we love our neighbor (our fellow men)? Do we need to feel a strong affection for him? Must we accept everything he does? Of course not! Sometimes we feel more affection for a pet animal than for a neighbor! Further, how can we agree with a drunkard who beats his wife and children?

Jesus helps us to understand how to love our neighbor. Jesus tells us to love him as ourselves. What does this mean?

It means that we will seek our neighbor's highest good, whatever it costs, just as we seek the highest good for ourselves. It does not mean that we must always agree with whatever our neighbor does, or that we must like him.

The love we have for ourselves leads us to seek our own good. We provide for our needs. We seek forgiveness for our sins. This, then, is what Jesus Christ commands us to do for our neighbor: seek his good, care for him, and forgive him.

And you? What importance will you give to love, in your life, work and home, towards your neighbor and in your pastoral ministry?

- ☐ Little.
- ☐ Some.
- ☐ With God's help, the most important place.

Which chapter of the Bible explains that spiritual gifts without love are worth nothing?

- ☐ Jeremiah 52.
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 13.
- ☐ Revelation 13.

1 Corinthians 12 deals with the importance of different gifts (for ministries). 1 Corinthians 13 explains that no gift (or ministry) has value without love.

Think of some neighbor, relative or friend, with whom you have a poor relationship (either through their fault or yours, it does not matter). Think about their needs. With what problem, worry or need can you help them? Start praying for them.

---

1 Corinthians 13:13 *“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”*

The last verse of this chapter deals with the importance of love. Sacrificial love is eternal. It gives value to spiritual gifts. It is more important than faith and hope. All the New Testament speaks of the importance of love.

Scripture passages that teach about love:

Matthew 5:38-48	Luke 10:25-37
Romans 12:9-21, 13:8-10	Ephesians 3:14-21, 5:25-33
Colossians 3:12-15	1 Timothy 1:5
Philemon 1:4-20	Hebrews 13:1-5
1 Peter 1:22	1 John 3:10-18, 4:7-21
1 Corinthians 13	Deuteronomy 6:4-6

What importance did Jesus and His disciples give to love?

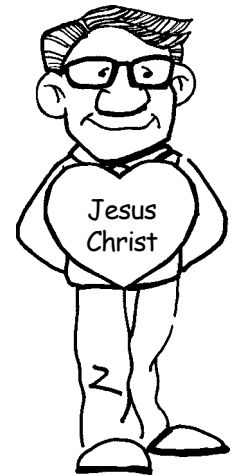
- ☐ Little.
- ☐ Some.
- ☐ Much.

## THE SOURCE OF LOVE

This real love comes because of Jesus' presence in us, in our hearts. It is the fruit of God's Spirit. (Romans 5:5, Galatians 5:22) This is why whoever is not a Christian cannot love his enemy.

Love is the evidence of:

- ☐ the Holy Spirit in us.
- ☐ good pastoring.



Sincere Christian love is the result of our spirit being united with Jesus Christ, by God's Spirit.

Can we oblige people to love?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.

Where does Christian love come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Check your answer with Galatians 5:22. Love grows with prayer, encouragement and the Word of God.

The first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 13, teaches us the effect of the presence of God's Holy Spirit in us. We will study this great chapter on love, in detail.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2: *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*

A spiritual gift has value when it is used with love. Some use their gifts, not to glorify God and build up the church, but rather to enjoy themselves or to show off.



Which attitude shows more love between denominations?

- ☐ Always working 'independently.'
- ☐ Cooperating with other churches.

Which attitude shows more maturity?

- ☐ Showing love to others, so they will support me.
- ☐ Showing love to others, even though they do not support me.

An independent spirit does not come from God. Rather, love leads us to work in harmony with other believers in Christ.

How do you plan to help your church put this into practice?

The real evidences of sincere love are:

- ☐ kind words.
- ☐ deeds.
- ☐ deep feelings.



Check your answer with 1 John 3:18.

According to these verses, what never fails?

- ☐ Speaking in tongues.
- ☐ Prophesying.
- ☐ Love.

Note: Check your answers in verses 8-10.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 *“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part: then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”*

During our life as Christians, we grow towards spiritual maturity, being changed more and more into the image of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 3:18) More and more Christ-like virtues become part of our lives. For example: love, faith, understanding, patience, self-control, concern for others, obedience, reverence for God, etc.

(2 Peter 1:5-7)

In the end, which Christian virtue is of most value before God?

\_\_\_\_\_



No gift has any value without love. Even though we preach God's Word, if we do it without love, it is worth:

- ☐ much for God.
- ☐ absolutely nothing.

If we use a gift for our own benefit, and not because we love God, we glorify ourselves, instead of worshiping God. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 says: *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”*

No work or sacrifice done for Christ has any value, unless it is done with love.

1 Corinthians 13:3 *"If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have no love, I am nothing."*



1 Corinthians 13:4a: *"Love is patient..."*

What is patience? Jesus commanded us to love as He loved us. (John 13:34) He loved us so much that He gave His life for our sins. He patiently suffered all kinds of insult, without repaying evil for evil.

*"Jesus said, 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on the righteous and the unrighteous, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.'"*

(Matthew 5:44-48)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:7 again, thinking about your enemy:

*"Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

What do you plan to do if you have an enemy with whom you should be reconciled?

---

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 *"Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears."*



In the story, who showed practical love?

- ☐ The priest.
- ☐ The Levite.
- ☐ The Samaritan.

How will you follow the Samaritan's example, helping with the need you wrote above?

---

We have already thought about persevering love in the church, at home, and towards our neighbor. Now comes the more difficult part of genuine love.

## PERSEVERING LOVE TOWARDS OUR ENEMY

The Lord Jesus associated love with Christian perfection.



What do I do if my neighbor steals from me? Jesus says, "*Forgive him.*" If he kills my son or rapes my daughter? Christ's answer is the same.

## FORGIVE HIM

Only a Christian can love and patiently forgive as Jesus did. Even atheists and criminals love when they are treated well, and there are no problems. But when they crucified Jesus, He still loved and forgave them. Jesus' love is seen in us when we are ill-treated, and still forgive sincerely.



We are patient, and when we forgive, it is an act of the will, done in love, faith and obedience. We do not forgive because we like the person; but rather because Jesus told us to forgive. (Mark 11:25-26)



Being kind, is doing good works, for love. For example, do you tithe, out of love?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.

Perhaps an envious member wants to be the pastor or leader. He divides the congregation. He seeks to be the leader, not for the love of people, but for his own sake.

## LOVE TOWARDS OUR NEIGHBOR

Read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.

According to the account, how should we love God?

- ☐ With all our being.
- ☐ As oneself.

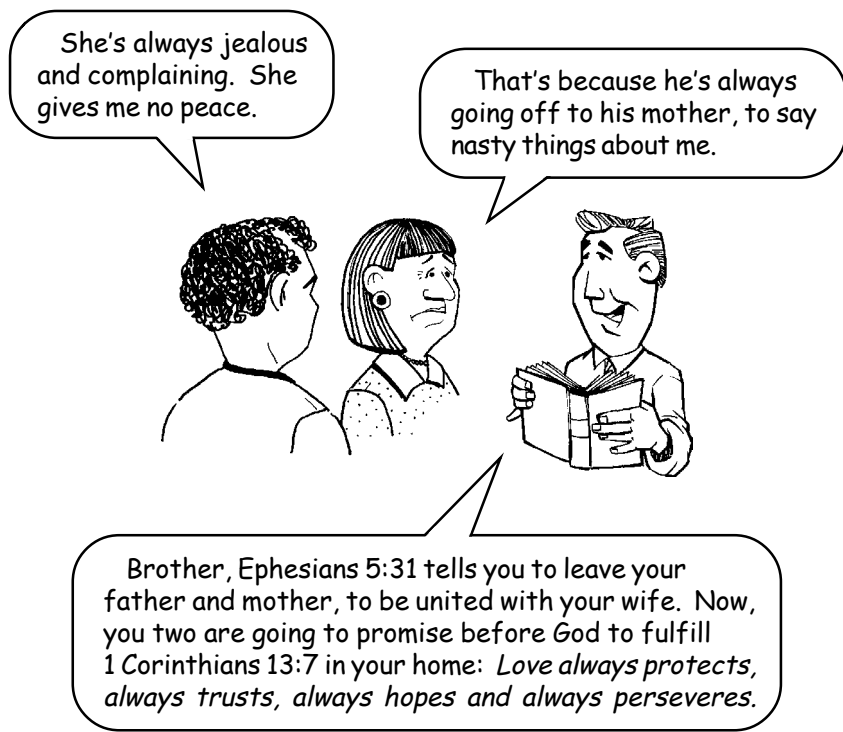
How should we love our neighbor?

- ☐ With all our being.
- ☐ As oneself.

We should love God with all our being and our neighbour as ourselves. But, according to the parable, how should we be true neighbours to others?

- ☐ By living in the same area.
- ☐ By showing compassion to the needy.

Love is shown to the needy, whether they are friends or foes. What need is there in your neighborhood, in which your church could help?



Christian love avoids complaining in the home, because love is patient. Jealousy dies, because trust and love build confidence and faith. Discouragement goes, because love always hopes. Anger and arguments disappear, because love endures everything.

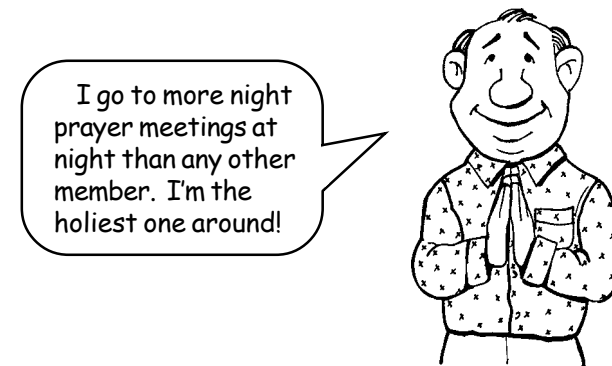
**The home where  
Christian love reigns,  
it is a foretaste of heaven,  
here on earth.**



This kind of person has:

- ☐ real love.
- ☐ selfish ambition.

1 Corinthians 13:4d *"Love... does not boast, it is not proud."*



What effect does this proud attitude have on other members?

- ☐ It encourages them.
- ☐ It discourages them.



Proud Christians discourage others, causing God's work to stagnate.



The proud man compares himself to others who seem weaker. But the Christian must compare himself with:

- ☐ other better people.
- ☐ Christ.

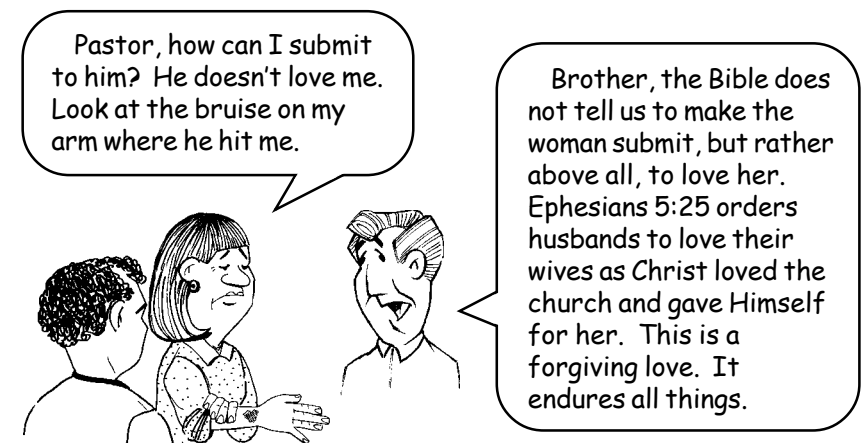
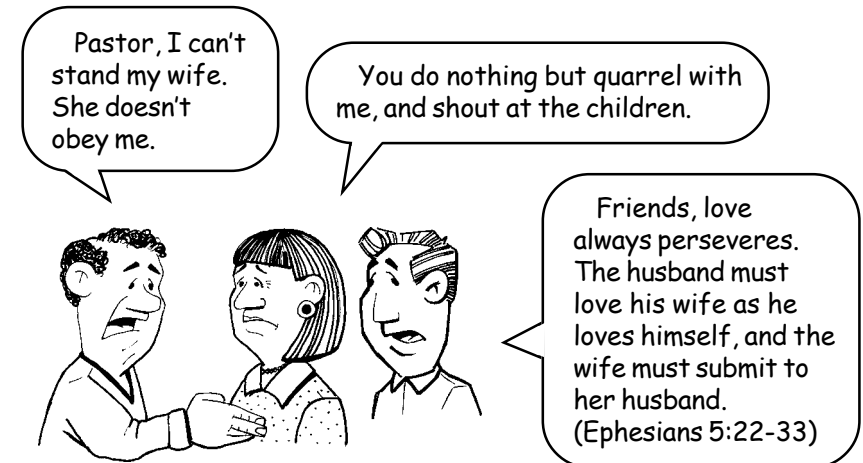
Check your answer with 2 Corinthians 10:12-18.

Satan tempts us to feel proud when we least expect it.

## PERSEVERING LOVE IN THE HOME

Think of your home, as you read this verse again:

*"Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*  
(1 Corinthians 13:7)



Love always hopes. We know that those who have repented and believed in Jesus Christ with all their hearts are saved. So we help new believers to understand the reality and permanence of their salvation in Christ. If we let them doubt this, there will always be wolves who will seek to divert them into trying to “earn” their salvation by works or into some false sect.

## LOVE AND DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH

Love seeks reconciliation. But in some cases, a member may continue causing divisions, or stealing, fornication, evil speech, or drunkenness. After carrying out the steps commanded by the Lord in Matthew 18:15-22 (warning in private, then with witnesses and then in the congregation), if the member continues in sin, we do not let him continue in fellowship with us. (Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:11)

Do you follow these steps to correct (or separate) a rebellious member?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you pray for him?

\_\_\_\_\_



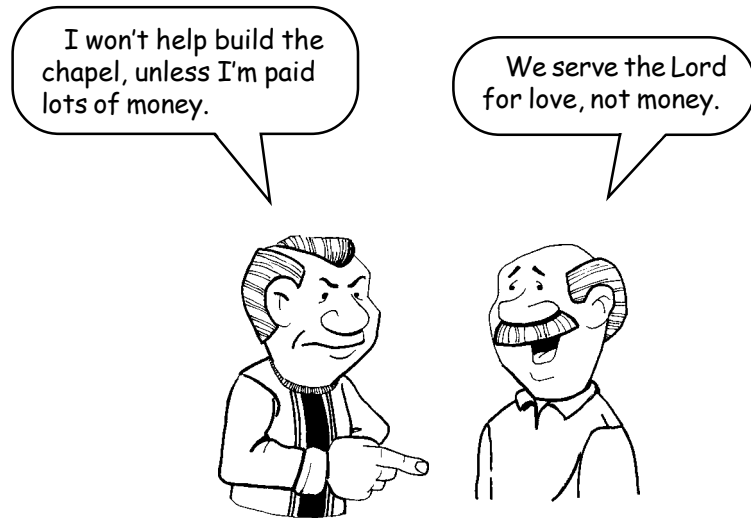
1 Corinthians 13:5a “Love...is not rude...(indecent).”

The sexual appetites are not, in themselves, sinful, unless they are uncontrolled. Within matrimony, sexual relations are a normal expression of love, as God has commanded. But they become perverted and sinful if their satisfaction is sought outside marriage.

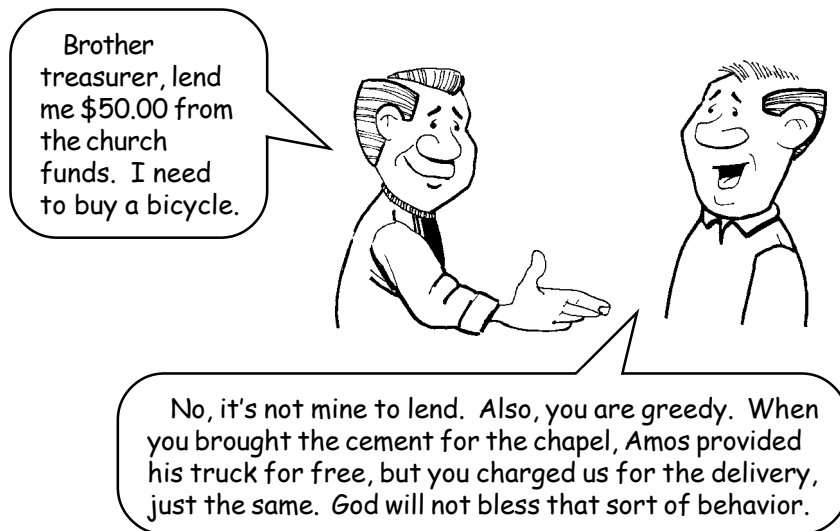
The friendship of the world does not build up Christian love. Rather, it tends towards fornication, drunkenness, crime, and wasting money.



1 Corinthians 13:5b *"Love... is not self-seeking..."*



1 Corinthians 5:10-11 forbids dealing with a believer who is greedy:



With firm hope, the pastor cares for the new believers.



1 Corinthians 13:6

*“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth.”*



1 Corinthians 13:7 *“It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

Persevering love is seen in the church, at home, with our neighbor and towards our enemy.

## PERSEVERING LOVE IN THE CHURCH

The pastor, who loves his flock, puts up with the many weaknesses of his flock.

Satan tempts us to be selfish, which destroys love.



Selfish people seldom share with others. Whoever loves gives freely, whether money, products, or work. He helps others. For example, he might teach someone to read.

Do you want to help others in a loving way? \_\_\_\_\_

How?

---

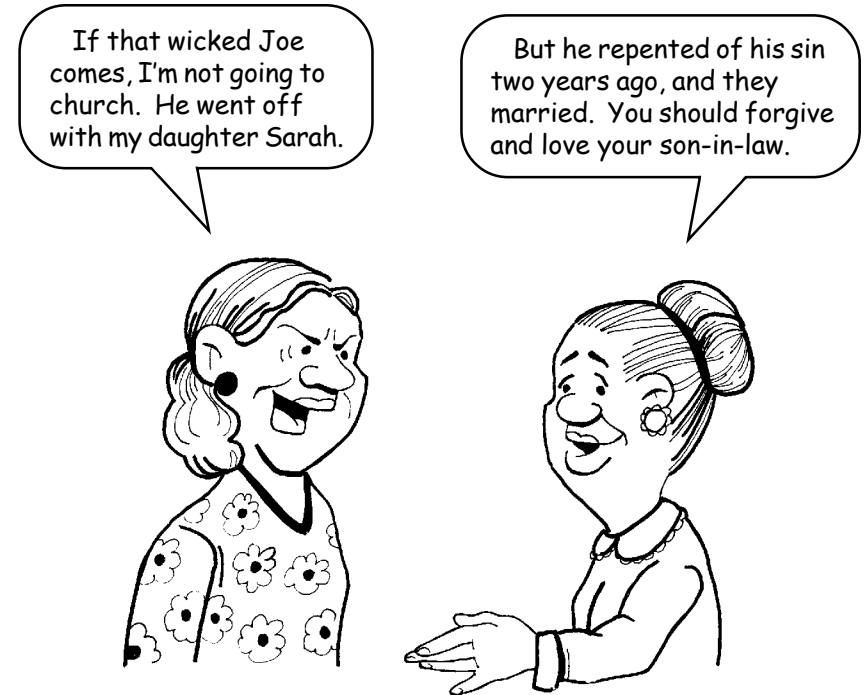
---



To pastor a church with love is to:

- ☐ dominate through bullying.
- ☐ guide with humility and kindness.

Speaking aggressively discourages the members. Love rather seeks to encourage and unite members.



When should a Christian seek revenge for an offence?

- ☐ Never.
- ☐ In serious cases.

Check your answer with Romans 12:17.