



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ SEPTEMBER 2015 ❖

Cacophony*

No, the word is not found in the Bible. But there is a reference wherein a “jarring, discordant sound” is found.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:1

LOVE

The word *agape* (love) in the Greek language is best defined as active good will.

CONDUCT OF LOVE

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

1 John 3:18

Sincere. Not Feigned

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 Peter 1:22

Without hypocrisy

(The practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not possess.)

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9

CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE

Love is **patient**, love is **kind** and is **not jealous**; love **does not brag** and is **not arrogant**, **does not act unbecomingly**; it does **not seek its own**, is **not provoked**, **does not take into account a wrong suffered**, **does not rejoice in unrighteousness**, but **rejoices with the truth**; **bears all things**, **believes all things**, **hopes all things**, **endures all things**.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

* Jarring discordant sound: dissonance (Greek: kakophonia)

**SUCCINCTLY
PUT**

A Matter of ‘Want-To’

When a person wants to do something, he looks for a way to do it.

When a person wants *not* to do it, he looks for an excuse.

Personal Faith

Personal faith is, well, very personal. It's something that is sacred to me. It's what I hold to be the truth, the facts of the matter. It's part of my inner being: guiding my actions, coloring my vision, affecting my attitude. Personal faith is so much a part of me, that no one has the right to force me to believe what they believe. I have a right to hold my personal beliefs.

Actually this right belongs to everyone. We all have the right to believe what we want to believe. We don't need others telling us that we must accept their beliefs. We don't like others saying their personal belief is better than ours.

However, in saying this, I must accept three things: (1) I have no right to demand or expect others to agree with my personal beliefs. (2) I have no right to expect God to approve of my personal beliefs. (3) I cannot expect my personal faith to save me in and of itself. It has no inherent power.

This generation's desire to accept everybody's personal beliefs has blinded them to a major fact: believing something to be true or right doesn't make it so. Beliefs based on emotions, current trends or moods in society, or personal perceptions have no merit, nor any power to save.

With people believing different things, even among those who lay claim to being Christians, it's evident that some personal beliefs cannot be right. More than holding different beliefs, some hold contrary beliefs.

In Christianity, personal faith must be based on the solid foundation of truth. The Scriptures speak of both personal faith and "the faith" (that system of doctrine or teachings). Personal faith based on "the faith" is saving faith. Personal beliefs based on anything else is vain faith. Jesus said of some religious people, "*In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of*

men." Jesus, in praying to the Father, said, "*Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.*" And in another place, He said, "*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*" Jude spoke of "*the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*" Paul lamented, "*Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.*"

Clearly, while having the right (or power) to believe whatever I want to believe, my personal faith will save me only when it rests solidly on the Gospel of Christ. Not as I want to see it, not as others see it, but as God reveals it.

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**May my faith and your faith  
be firmly based on the  
faith once-for-all delivered.**

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## God's Eternal Word

*For feelings come and feelings go,  
And feelings are deceiving;  
My warrant is the Word of God  
Naught else is worth believing.*

*I'll trust in God's unchanging Word.  
Till soul and body sever;  
For, though all things shall pass away,  
His Word shall stand forever.*

- Author unknown

## A Christian's 'One Another' Obligations

- Admonish** one another
  - bear** one another's burdens
  - care** for one another
  - comfort** one another
  - be compassionate** to one another
  - confess your faults** one to another
  - consider** one another
  - edify** one another
  - exhort** one another
  - have fellowship** one with another
  - forbear** one another
  - forgive** one another
  - show hospitality** one to another
  - be humble** to one another
  - be kind** to one another
  - be kindly** affectionate one to another
  - be like-minded** one to another
  - love** one another
  - minister** to one another
  - pray** for one another
  - prefer** one another
  - provoke** one another  
(to love and good works)
  - receive** one another
  - greet** one another
  - serve** one another
  - speak** to one another
  - subject** one to another
  - submit** to one another
  - tarry** one for another
  - teach** one another
  - do not bite or devour** one another
  - do not envy** one another
  - do not complain** to one another
  - do not hate** one another
  - do not judge** one another (legislatively)
  - do not lie** to one another
  - do not lust** after one another
  - do not provoke** (agitate) one another
  - do not speak evil** one of another
- compiled by Warren King



**koinonia:** "a having in common, partnership, fellowship" denotes the share which one has in anything, a participation, fellowship recognized and enjoyed; thus it is used of the common experiences and interests of Christians.

– Vines Dictionary

## Things in Common

While each Christian is a unique individual, there are some common traits shared by all.



### COMMON FAITH

Christians share the same faith (belief) in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

*To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

Titus 1:4



### COMMON CONFESSION

Christians make the same confession that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Jesus who was crucified, resurrected, and is now in heaven exercising all power and authority.

*By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.*

1 Timothy 3:16



### COMMON TEMPTATIONS

Christians have to endure the same temptations. No one is exempt. However, each one has a way of escape and can endure.

*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

1 Corinthians 10:13



## Ponder This

It's Not  
Enough!

**It's not enough to carry a Bible,**  
I must read it.

**It's not enough to read it,**  
I must heed it.

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

Matthew 7:24



**It's not enough to know Jesus,**  
I must know His will.

**It's not enough to know His will,**  
I must do His will.

*And He [Jesus] was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."*

Luke 9:23



**It's not enough for God to love me,**  
I must love Him.

**It's not enough to love Him,**  
I must also love others.

*If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

1 John 4:20



**It's not enough to start the race,**  
I must finish it.

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*

Hebrews 12:1



## WORD STUDY

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

### HYPOCRITE

Primarily denotes "one who answers;" then, "a stage-actor;" it was a custom for Greek and Roman actors to speak in large masks with mechanical devices for augmenting the force of the voice; hence the word became used metaphorically of "a dissembler, a hypocrite." It is used by the Lord fifteen times in Matthew.

– Vines Greek Dictionary

### VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS

#### Romans 12:9

Let love be without **hypocrisy**. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. NASB

Love must be **sincere**. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. NIV

Let love be **genuine**, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. RSV

The love **unfeigned**: abhorring the evil; cleaving to the good. YLT

Don't just **pretend** that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. NLT

### THE GOAL OF INSTRUCTION

But the goal of our instruction **is love from a pure heart** and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:5

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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