

30A - 2026

Found this in the Interpretation series of Matthew by Douglas Hare: "In an age when the word love is greatly abused, it is important to remember that the primary component of **biblical love is not affection but commitment**. Warm feelings of gratitude may fill our consciousness as we consider all that God has done for us, but it is not warm feelings that Deut. 6:5 demands of us but rather stubborn, unwavering commitment. Similarly, to love our neighbor, including our enemies, does not mean that we must feel affection for them. To love the neighbor is to imitate God by taking their needs seriously."

Love Is More than We Can See

A man once observed a young boy out in a field flying a kite. He noticed that there was something odd about the way the boy was standing and holding on to the string. He walked up to the boy and then learned that the boy was blind. He said, "Do you like flying kites?" The boy said, "I sure do." This piqued the man's curiosity and he asked, "How is that when you cannot see it?" The boy answered, "I may not be able to see it but I can feel it tugging'!"

We may not always be able to identify the love of God in this world. Like the little boy, we may not be able to see love but it has a tug that lets us know its there.
(by Brett Blair, www.eSermons.com)

"That's how God works."

There is a story about a young woman who was in great distress because she had lost a sense of God in her life. She complained to her elderly grandmother, "Why doesn't God let me feel His presence? If only I could feel Him and know that He has touched me." Her grandmother said, "Pray to God, right now. Close your eyes and pray to him. Ask Him to put out his hand and touch you." The girl closed her eyes and prayed fervently. Then she felt a hand on her hand. "He touched me. He touched me," she cried out. Then she said, "You know, his hand felt just like your hand." "Of course! It was my hand," her grandmother said. "That's how God works. He takes the hand that is nearest and uses that." (Fr. Pellegrino) (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

"That was John D. Rockefeller, Sr."

The story is told of an East Coast fishing village that was nearly destitute. The townspeople decided to hold a meeting in an attempt to resolve their complicated problems. A stranger showed up to the meeting, and he tried several times to speak.

But there was a bit of community prejudice in that town, and the visitor was interrupted each time he opened his mouth. The locals didn't care for an outsider to become involved. A latecomer to the meeting showed up just as the visitor was leaving, and they passed each other in the entrance. The latecomer asked, "What was he doing here? Did he offer help? Is he going to aid us?" Not knowing what to make of this, the members of the assembly asked if he knew who the stranger was.

The latecomer replied, "I saw his boat docked in the harbor. That was John D. Rockefeller, Sr.!" — They ignored the one person who had the resources to help them. How often God comes to us, but we do not recognize Him or receive Him! (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

Staying in Line

At the entrance to the harbor at the Isle of Man there are two lights. One would think that the two signals would confuse the pilot. But the fact is, he has to keep them in line; as long as he keeps them in line, his ship is safe. It is the same with these commands of Jesus: love of self, the love of God, and love others. When we keep them in line, we remain safe and well in the channel of the Christian life.

(by Jerry L. Schmalemberger from *When Christians Quarrel*, CSS Publishing Company)