



bits from bob....

Love Is Not Enough: It's not enough to really love Jesus"
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"It's not enough for them to really love Jesus." The statement caught my attention! Bingo! I have held this belief for a long time. I am troubled when sermons, classes, and comments suggest that the Christian life is encompassed and summarized only by love.

In the article, the author, a church staffing expert, was writing about how to select ministers and church staff. His point was that hiring church workers based only on love is insufficient. Hiring church workers based solely on whether they are nice and whether they love Jesus does not work. Why? The author concluded that experience and competence are essential to effective ministry.

Isn't the same thing true for every Christian? Love is not enough! The Christian life is not measured by whether you are nice and whether you love Jesus and other people. A Christian must do the things that Christians do – things that demonstrate God's love. Christianity is not defined by love; Christianity is defined by love in action! To be a Christian, one must assume a ministry activity and fulfill that role with some competence (Eph. 4:12-16).

All of that got me to thinking about a few Bible principles related to love. For example--

- Loving God means keeping his commands (all of them), John 14:15, 15:14
- Living out my love for God shows that I love his children (1 John 5:1-3)
- Loving others means sharing the message of God's love with them

Perhaps love is enough—if you understand and define love biblically, just as faith is enough—if you understand and define faith biblically! But let's be clear—the modern tendency to seek a softer, gentler God who is defined only by love -- a God who is pleased with good and loving intentions -- fails to understand both the God described in the Bible ("he loved the world so much that he sent his Son") and the Son of God who came to make salvation possible for those obey.