

## QUOTATIONS ABOUT LOVE

David Renwick, Maundy Thursday 2019

### **JOHN 13: 34-35**

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to his disciples: *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

### **FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY (Brothers Karamazov)**

"I MUST make one confession" Ivan began. "I could never understand how one can love one's neighbors. It's just one's neighbors, to my mind, that one can't love, though one might love those at a distance.

I once read somewhere of John the Merciful, a saint, that when a hungry, frozen beggar came to him, he took him into his bed, held him in his arms, and began breathing into his mouth, which was putrid and loathsome from some awful disease. I am convinced that he did that . . . for the sake of 'love' imposed by duty, as a penance laid on him.

For anyone to love a person, the 'loved one' must be hidden, for as soon as he shows his face, love is gone . . . *One can love one's neighbors in the abstract, or even at a distance, but at close quarters it's almost impossible.*"

### **C.S. LEWIS (Mere Christianity)**

"Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. . . In fact, whatever people say, the state called 'being in love' usually does not last. *Who could bear to live in that excitement for even five years? What would become of your work, your appetite, your sleep, your friendships?* But, of course, ceasing to be 'in love' need not mean ceasing to love. Love in this second sense — love as distinct from 'being in love' — is not merely a feeling.

- It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God.
- They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself.
- They can retain this love even when each would easily, if they allowed themselves, be 'in love' with someone else.

'Being in love' first moved them to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it."

### **WILLIAM BARCLAY (New Testament Words)**

It is the spirit which says that no matter what any person does to me,

I will never seek to harm him or her. I will never set out for revenge.

I will always seek nothing but his highest good.

That is to say, agape is unconquerable benevolence. It is invincible good will.

It is not simply a wave of emotion. It is a deliberate conviction of the mind

Issuing in a deliberate policy of the life.

### **MARK 10 SOFT LOVE: Jesus Blesses Little Children**

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

### **MARK 10 TOUGH LOVE: The Rich Man**

<sup>17</sup> As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother." ' <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

### **JOHN 13: SERVING LOVE**

. . . during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. . .

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