

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" Hebrews 10:24

Provoking someone to anger takes little more than a sharp tongue and a ready wit. It takes Divine inspiration to provoke someone to love and good works. I must give of myself if I am to provoke someone to love. The apostle Paul said that it was *"the love of Christ"* that constrained him to do the things that he did. To provoke love, we must love unconditionally.



"We love Him because He first loved us." "...while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Jesus died for those that drove the spikes into His hands and feet. He cared for those who spat on Him and beat Him with their fists. He suffered at the hands of those He came to save. What unfathomable Love! We will never sound its depth! When we begin to love others the way Christ loved us, then we will begin to provoke love and good works. *"To err is human, to forgive Divine."* *"Forgive"* is an interesting word. It means to *"give before."* Give what? Before what? It means we are ready to extend mercy to those that have wronged us, before they ask for it. It doesn't mean to hand out mercy indiscriminately. It just means to be always ready to forgive when asked. This will require great sacrifice and forbearance, as well as a close walk with the Lord. I cannot love divinely, if I am not Divinely inspired. I must forgive my enemies in my heart before they ask, if I am to be like my Heavenly Father. This is why God's Word refers to Love as the bond of perfection. It ignores the faults of others, and is unphased by insult.

He came to earth from up above,
He came to save the ones He loved,
His Love, the sinner comes to know,
If we, His Love, to others show, ~CGP

We are ambassadors of the Heavenly Kingdom. We plead with all men to be reconciled to their KING before it is too late. We must begin by forgiving and loving those of like faith and practice. It does not mean that I have fellowship with heretics. A heretic is anyone who persists in practicing false doctrine. After the first and second admonition we are to reject heretics. On the rest, we are to have compassion and give to them the Gospel of Peace. We can't forgive sin, but we can have compassion on the sinner. It is our brethren in Christ that we are to love, uplift, and forgive. Compassion visits the sick friend. Love stays and gives care.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
John 13:34-35