

Introduction:

- Published: "Struggling artist unhappy with reputation as would-be assassin" on HotAir.com, 2/26/12
 - The man who tried to kill President Ronald Reagan more than 30 years ago said he would like to be known "as something other than a would-be assassin." A doctor reported that around the time Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was shot in January 2011, John Hinckley commented: "Wow. Is that how people see me?" Then he vented frustration about being unable to change the public's perception. "I don't have a microphone in my hand. I don't have the video camera. So no one can hear my music. No one can see my art. I have these other aspects of my life that no one knows about. I'm an artist. I'm a musician. Nobody knows that. They just see me as the guy who tried to kill Reagan," he said. **Application:** Whether we like it or not, our reputation is carved into public perception not by our inner thoughts or intentions, but by our actions. Their 'cameras' and 'microphones', so to speak, are trained on our every action. So, if you want to be known as a genuine follower of Jesus, you must commit yourself to acting in love.
- There are many things we can be known for as Christians but the one thing we want people to know is God's love. After all, the most wonderful thing we have received from God is His love. I have been reading and rereading the book of first Timothy since the start of the year and tonight I want to share with you some of what I have been learning. If we want to be genuine followers of Jesus, we must commit ourselves to acting in love.
- Paul is confident in who he is (1:1). And he reminds Timothy why he urged him to stay in Ephesus. The was not just a desire of Paul. Paul needed Timothy to stay and address those who were living to undo the truth and cause people to miss living a life of faith in God. (1:4) Therefore he instructs Timothy to instruct his people. Read 1:5-6.

1. The Purpose of Instruction Is Love

- a. The purpose, Gr word is *telos*. There is a goal in the mind of Paul. It is not just giving believers knowledge. That is what the Greek man longs for but Paul is coming from a Hebrew mindset that says, "How do I live this Word?" So the instruction is not for the purpose of knowing it is for helping the church to live what it has received.
 - i. *télos* first means "achievement," "fulfillment," "success," Another meaning is "completion," "perfection," "final step," "supreme stage,"¹
 - ii. Therefore, it is the goal of a certain thing. When the instruction is successful, the end result will be the kind of love that Paul describes.
 - iii. His goal in writing to Timothy or to us (lets personalize it) is that we keep the main thing at the forefront- Love. The intended result of teaching, instruction, and personal devotion is to increase our capacity to love. Imagine that!?!
- b. Peter Lord of Park Avenue Church Titusville used to say, "Keep the main thing the main thing!" What is the main thing? Paul's teaching has a history. He is not the creator; he is the benefactor that whole-heartedly believes in what He has received and wants the whole world to walk in it.
 - i. The Great commandment: Mk 12:30:31 *And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.* ³¹ *The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* *No other commandment is greater than these.*" NLT From Deut 6:4-5, and Lev 19:18.
 - ii. Jn 13:34 *So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.* NLT He also teaches that in the parable of the good Samaritan, Lk 10:33-ff. Deut 10:19 Love the stranger for you were strangers in Egypt.
 - iii. Jn 15:12 *This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.* NLT
- c. So what we read in Timothy is intend to move us deeper into Christ love and in turn bring a deeper love out of us towards others.

2. Where This Love Comes From

- a. from a pure heart-
 - i. Heart is the *cardia* Gr. It was the main street through the city. The heart is the very core of a man. It gets newly created when we believe and receive the work of Christ.

¹ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

ii. *katharos* - denotes physical, religious, and moral cleanness or purity in such senses as clean, free from stains or shame, and free from adulteration.² What is clean is made for fellowship with God.

1. Ez 36:25 *I will sprinkle clean water upon you and then you will be clean...I will cleanse you of all filthiness.*

2. Ps 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart O' God.*

3. Heb 10:22 *let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean.* NLT

iii. Love comes out of born again heart.

b. from a clear conscience-

i. *Agathos* - good.

ii. *Synoida* - to know, to be aware.

1. A corrupt conscience involves discrepancy between confession and action. The connection with faith shows that the good conscience has to do with the new creation, which embraces all life, not just with a blameless conscience in a moralistic sense.³

2. The born again person is to walk with a conscience that reflects the activity of God on that heart. The law is for the evil doer. But the person who is born again, the Spirit of God directs that heart because it is now alive unto God.

iii. Demonstrations of love comes out of the born again heart. Because it is being lead by the clean conscience. See 1:19 Cling to your faith and keep your conscience clear.

c. from a genuine faith-

i. *anypokritos* - the opposite of hypocritical. The hypocrite was an actor, not the real thing. But Paul is urging Timothy to be genuine in his faith. In the NT this word is tightly connected to agape. Rom 12:9-10 *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.*¹⁰ *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.* NLT It's faith expressing itself in love.

ii. Romans 13:10 *Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.* NLT

iii. Romans 13:8 *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.* NLT If you love well you fulfill the law.

iv. "Whatever tends to weaken either our love to God or love to the brethren tends to defeat the end of the commandment: and surely the gospel."⁴

3. Why This Is Important

a. 1:15 *This is a trustworthy saying and everyone should accept it, "Christ Jesus came into the world to say sinners!"*

b. 2:6 *He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone! This is the message that God gave the world at just the right time.*

c. We are the only Jesus that some people will ever see.

Conclusion:

- So, if you want to be known as a genuine follower of Jesus, you must commit yourself to acting in love.

² Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

³ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

⁴ Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume* (p. 2350). Peabody: Hendrickson.