

# Right Action

07/23/17

(1 John 3:18 NLT) “Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.”

Last week I spoke verbosely about the power of the word and its effects on us and others. I mentioned that there are three parts to God’s creative principle working within us to produce the visions and dreams that God plants in our hearts. They are thoughts, words, and deeds. I have spoken about thoughts in the past, and last week words, so this week I want to finish with deeds or actions.

Of course, the idea of love to me is important. Yes, we are told to love God, each other and ourselves. Fine – we get it. But in our Bible verse today, we are told not to merely say we love each other and God, and our selves, but we are instructed to demonstrate that truth through our actions; through what we do and how we treat others.

We are told that God is Love, and I believe that Love is an energy that depicts one aspect of God; maybe the primary essence of God. The energy that is Love then moves through us as we attune ourselves to the awareness of God and it is released through our thoughts, words, and deeds. So in a sense, Love is complicated. We can think of love as a thought, a word, as well as an action.

We’ve seen this in others, as well as ourselves. We have held loving thoughts in mind for others. We have spoken loving words to others, and we have done loving things for others.

Yet, as I think about these three venues for love, I start to think that love is more of an action than anything else. After all, to hold thoughts in our minds is an action or attitude; it is something we do: we hold loving thoughts in our minds.

The same is true with our words. We choose to do something with our words. The act of speaking is a powerful means for allowing Love to flow. If we can acquiesce to the idea that we can 'do' things that doesn't include bodily actions, then perhaps we can see that mental actions and spoken actions are possible.

But this is not the point of my talk, which is to encourage everyone to perform right actions, God-inspired deeds in all situations. Right action or doing what is right, can incorporate a wide variety of activities depending upon our ability to apply wisdom to our own personal moral, ethical, and religious background.

But despite our disparate socioeconomic, geopolitical, and spiritual beliefs, are there some things that all of us can agree upon?

For instance, whether you believe in God or not, are not The Ten commandments a good place to start. Even for those who have no religion, there are six commandments that can still apply:  
Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal.  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet.

For those of us who are believers in God, the full 10 are our starting place. Yet, for humanity as a whole these six would go a long way in making this earth a better place; especially the one about not coveting.

Coveting is more than just a casual interest in something that belongs to some else; it is the intense desire to do whatever is necessary to have something that is not ours – this can include someone’s spouse, property, possessions, country, authority, power, and influence. If we are not careful, we can covet someone’s beliefs and try to “own” how they think.

Our challenge, therefore, is to allow the energy of Love to express through our thoughts, words, and actions.

“Doing What Comes Naturally”, was a song from Irving Belin’s 1946 musical *Annie Get Your Gun*, and became a life philosophy for many; a justification for doing what we wanted without thought to others. But it is not the attitude of a Child of God; is the attitude of a Child of Man. From our human, worldly, ego-based perspective, it is natural to want to put ourselves first. “What’s in it for me?” It is natural to take what we want and live from the lowest common denominator of our animalistic humanity.

We are human beings, and all that is required from us is to be. Yet as Children of God we are also divine Human Doings. We are not put here to be inert creatures caring only about our own solitary needs. In Proverbs 31:8-9 we read: *Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge*

*righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Isaiah 1:17 teaches: Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.*

As Isaiah points out, these right things are learned behaviors; we study, practice and apply what we learn from our experiences. We pray and take corrective actions as the Christ guides us in what we do.

Paramahansa Yogananda said: “You must not let your life run in the ordinary way; do something that nobody else has done, something that will dazzle the world. Show that God’s creative principle works in you.”

If we don’t dazzle the world, let us at least dazzle a few people around us by doing the right things; by applying God’s Love, Wisdom and Power through our talents, time, resources, and gifts to bring happiness to ourselves and serve others in the most profound and loving way. It can be as simple as smiling, changing the expression on our face, letting someone merge into the lane in front of us, offering a person the next place in the grocery line. Let us ‘walk our talk’, and backup our words with actions by showing people that we appreciate them, approve of them, and accept them despite our differences.

Martin Luther King said, ‘On some positions, Cowardice asks the question, “Is it safe?” Expediency asks the question, “Is it politic?” And Vanity comes along and asks the question, “Is it popular?” But Conscience asks the question, “Is it right?” ‘The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of

convenience, but where they stand in moments of challenge, moments of great crisis and controversy.'

Where do we stand? I pray that we choose to stand with God, and do what is right.

Let us pray....