

"He saith unto him the third time, -Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?ø Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, -Lovest thou me?ø And he said unto Him, -Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee.ø Jesus saith unto him, -Feed my sheep." John 21:17 KJV



We often openly declare our love for God to others, but fail to claim it when challenged, like Simon Peter at the enemy's fire. How often do we declare our love to God? Notice Jesus didn't say, "Feed my goats." Jesus taught Peter that love for God should manifest itself by the teaching of other believers to know and love the LORD by ministering God's Word to them. We not only have a duty to enrich our own hearts with prayer and meditation, but we are compelled to build each other up in the faith and our Lord Jesus Christ. Our level of witness about Christ directly indicates the level of our love for God. If you can be snared into silence by your desire for man's approval, you may believe in Christ, but not love Him as you ought. *"The fear of man layeth a snare. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* Loving the world can be as simple as putting your feelings before obedience to God. Ah! There's the rub! "I just don't feel like it!" or "It just feels uncomfortable!" often comes from the same heart that sing, "My Jesus, I Love Thee!" Do you think Jesus was "comfortable" when they whipped Him with the cat of nine tails? When the soldiers mocked and beat Him? Or when He hung on the Cross for YOUR sin? We worry about the opinions of evil doers while claiming to mourn the cruel death our Lord endured to save them! The word "hypocrite" comes to mind along with "blasphemer" and "backslider." We're all guilty of biting our tongue to avoid rejection while naming it kindness. God told Ezekiel, *"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."* Do you want blood on your hands come Judgment Day? Better untie your tongue! Maybe we don't tell our neighbors, because they know how we really live! Isn't egg on our face in front of neighbors better than blood on our hands in front of Almighty God?

Passion of speech reveals the heart,
That will not from its Lord depart,
Silence of lip reveals the shame,
Of those afraid to name His Name! ~CGP

Righteous living and Godly speech allows us to be credible witnesses; to boldly declare the righteousness of our LORD Jesus Christ, freely given to all who will come and call on His name. *"This Book of the Law (God's Word) shall NOT depart out of thy MOUTH."* Will your silence send men to burn for eternity? Are you ashamed of Jesus?

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the Power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the Righteousness of God revealed from Faith to Faith: as it is written, -The just shall live by Faith (Hab.2:4). ó But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. ó How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 1:16-17 ó John 1:12 ó Romans 10:14 KJV