

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



Provoking someone to anger takes little more than a sharp tongue and a ready wit, but it takes Divine inspiration to provoke someone to love and good works. I must love, to provoke love. The apostle Paul said that it was *"the Love of Christ"* that constrained him to do the things he did. Not his love for Christ, but Christ's Love for him! *"God commendeth His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We love Him because He first Loved us."* Those He loved, tormented Him. Jesus forgave and begged forgiveness for those who drove the spikes into His hands and feet. He loved those who mocked, spat on, and beat Him with their fists. What unfathomable Love! We will never sound its depth! Herein we find the foundation of unconditional love; forgiveness. You cannot love if you do not forgive and if you love, forgiveness is a reflex. If we 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. It doesn't mean handing out mercy indiscriminately, but to be always ready to forgive when asked and repentance is obvious. Forgiveness is seldom sought because it is not often given, **BUT** it must be sought before given! God only forgives the repentant, but is ready to forgive **WHOSOEVER WILL**. Forgiveness requires great sacrifice and forbearance, as well as a close walk with the Lord. *"Great peace have they which love Thy law and nothing shall offend them."* If I constantly remind myself of the great debt forgiven me, I will more easily forgive the slights and offenses of others against me. I cannot love divinely, if I am not Divinely inspired. If I am to be like my Heavenly Father, I must know my heavenly Father, obey Him, and forgive offenses in my heart immediately as He forgave us *"before the world began! God is Love; and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect. There is no fear in love; but perfect Love casteth out fear."* Love ignores faults and insults. *"God commendeth His Love toward us in that **WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS**, Christ died for us. He **FIRST** loved us."*

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

*"All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself...and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation. Now then we are **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST**."* Plead with men to be reconciled to their **KING** before it is too late! Begin by forgiving and loving the brethren. It doesn't mean to fellowship with heretics who persists in false doctrine, because after the second admonition we are to reject heretics. Have compassion on the rest. Compassion gives to the needy what they cannot obtain on their own; the greatest gift of all; the Gospel of Peace. Our First and foremost duty of love is toward God; and then, love, forgive, and uplift our brethren in Christ. Compassion may visit the sick, but Love stays and attends!

*"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 KJV*