

## Love Covers Sin

**Key Verse:** And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

-1 Peter 4:8

### Central Text: 1 Peter 4:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. <sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer. <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Use hospitality one to another without grudging. <sup>10</sup> As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

### A Deeper Look

#### Christ died to cover our sins

##### 1 Corinthians 15:3

- Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; <sup>2</sup> By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

#### Christ Dies while we were in sin

##### Romans 5:1-8

- <sup>5</sup> Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup> And patience, experience; and experience, hope: <sup>5</sup> And hope makes us not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. <sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

#### Discussion:

1. Read back over the key verse. Have a discussion with your group about what this verse means to them.
2. Do we often take God's forgiveness (covering sin) for granted? Why do we do this?
3. How can we get individuals to understand the love that God's has for them?
4. How can we honor Jesus's sacrifice of dying for our sins (love).

#### Closing Point:

To "cover" sin is to forgive it, and forgiveness is associated with love. The best example of a love that covers sin is Jesus' sacrificial death on our behalf. Love covering sin also does not mean we disregard our own emotions or ignore our personal boundaries. We cannot "cover" sin by denying that it hurt us. We cover sin by acknowledging it and then extending the forgiveness God has given us to others.