

November 28th – Love Above All Else

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’”
(1 Peter 4:8)

As he approaches the end of his letter to the early church, Peter provides some practical commands focused on everyday Christian living. He reminds believers to be serious and watchful about praying, being hospitable to one another, and being good stewards of what God has provided. Yet above all the other commands, Peter says that the church needs to have “fervent love for one another.” The word translated “fervent” literally means “stretched out.”

Consequently, Peter is commanding believers to have a passionate love for one another that will extend throughout the course of time. And why is loving one another so important? Peter says it’s because “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Here, Peter quotes Prov. 10:12 – “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.” In other words, a contentious person loves drama and despises reconciliation. A loving person is willing to extend forgiveness and mercy for the sake of peace.

These words of Peter remind us of the words of Jesus – “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). In other words, the world will not know that we are followers of Christ just because we worship in a beautiful building. The world won’t know we’re followers of Christ just because we wear a Christian T-shirt. The world will know we belong to Jesus because we love God and we love one another. So then, set aside the hate and spread the love.