

Title: the Covering of love
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1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

Picture: A covering of love? (Genesis 9:20-27)

Covering the nakedness: “But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.”

A covering of love manifests in:

1. **The way we look at people**

We shouldn’t label people according to sins or wrongs. **Why?** Because God doesn’t do that.

*The lens of the cross.

*Jesus makes us blameless.

God is not focused on our nakedness, in the sense that he wants to expose us. **God is focused** on our nakedness, in the sense that he wants to cover us. Gen 3:21 *also for adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

Love sacrifices to cover

Questions: What do we focus on when we look at people? What lens are we looking through? When you find out what people have done in the past, does that change your view of them?

2. **The way we speak of people**

*Love causes you to identify yourself with another’s failure – it is as if you did it.

(1) If one part of the body is suffering, the whole body is suffering.

(2) Cause God did that for us and showed us the way to live.

*Love takes responsibility for people’s failures – to cover. Your mistake, now become my mistake – let’s cover it.

Questions: do we identify with other’s faults or sins? Do we take responsibility for other people’s problems and challenges, as if its our own? Or do we expose them, gossip?

3. **Making a covering**

*Love amplifies my faith – not a home for self, it is a home for all.

Eph 6:16 *above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy...*

*Faith lacking love focuses on self-preservation

*Faith empowered by love causes self-sacrifice. It takes our faith beyond the boundaries of self-preservation and comfort. Love breaks down boundaries.

Eph 3:18 *may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

The love of God **covers wide, long, deep and high**. It will **cause us to make a covering**.

Questions: if I love people I will extend my faith to cover them, not merely cover myself. Are you? Are you pushing the boundaries? Putting your shield of faith wider, further, higher?

A glorious church – a church that becomes a covering for people’s nakedness

John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

One application: identify yourself with one other person’s problem and take responsibility for it. Make a covering. That is what love does.