

Look back to the First Epistle of John. 1 Jn.4:7-10 -- (reading text). Yes, John deserves the title the Apostle of Love, but no more than Paul does. In fact, true love is to a very large extent a product of Christianity. You take other religions and you have not except as they are influenced by Christianity-- you have not to any extent found them establishing hospitals, found them looking out for the poor and suffering.

In fact unde many another religion it has been customary to kill the weak children, to dispose of those who were in the way. The idea of respect for personality, of interest in the well-being of everyone, is something that has come into the world largely through Christianity. And Christian love is greatly stressed in the Bible. How important it is that we have this love. How important it is also that we realize the source of it. The source of it comes from the teaching of the Bible.

Notice particularly v.9 of IJohn 4 --In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him." SIn many another section of the world, people have killed others with hardly a thought about it. Many times in the past and even today in some sections. But as a result of Christianity there has come this idea of the importance of every individual. But alas, this idea is being carried out of all proportion in some churches of our country today.

People are murdered on the street and the sympathy of the judges, even of the supreme court seems to go to the mudderer, rather than to the people who are murdered! and to the others who are put in jeopardy as a result of the laws not being enforced. God has commanded that they who murder, that they who destroy the possibility of true love, that they should be removed altogether. But there are now big movements in our country to do away with capital punishment. This is defiance of God's law. It is having all your sympathy for the murderer and none for the mass of the people who deserve to have security and protection. That is not true Christian love.

Christian love, however, is stressed repeatedly in Scripture. It is vital and we should learn to show it more and more. As I say it is one of the great proofs of the truth of Christianity, the way that love for the oppressed, love for the downtrodden, love for those who have been unfortunate has been a byproduct of Christianity throughout the world to a great extent.

It is strange how blind people can be to this somethings. I have been much interested lately in reading the three autobiographical works of Pearl Buck. Thier life of her father which she calls Fighting Angel. The life of her mother which she calls The Exxon(??) And a running sketch of her own life which she calls My Several Worlds. It is interesting to see how this woman brought up in a Christian home, the child of one of the most devoted missionaries perhaps in history, one which was so devoted to spreading the gospel back and forth and up and down through