

**Daily Life with Christ. Love-14: Understanding the objective, universal, unchanging, eternal nature of love—The Universal Nature of Love . . . everyone lives by love every single waking moment.**



(Online copy at <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/031318.pdf> and <http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>).

**Setting:** **Steven** has shown George that he cannot get to objective universal truth through the original languages (exegesis), by comparing Scripture with Scripture (categories), or by understanding the times in which the Bible was written (isagogics). While these are wonderful methods that have their proper place in discovering truth, by themselves they cannot provide objective universal hermeneutics. The original languages are multivocal. The use of comparing Scripture with Scripture is subjective (every denomination has their own system)—how does one know which verses to emphasize? And the very idea of basing truth on a culture is by definition relativistic. **Suzie** entered the conversation and said that all we need is love. Both George and Suzie turn to **Steven** who claims that one gets to ultimate foundation of reality and meaning through the universal law of being and the law of non-contradiction.

**Suzie:** Stephen, like I said all we need is love. We do not need to analyze love. We just need to love more . . . right? . . . don't you agree?

**Stephen:** No! For one thing: everyone is already loving every waking moment. For, according to the universal and undeniable law of being, every creature loves.

**Suzie and George:** What?!

**Suzie:** How can you say that all creatures love? Look at all the evil in the world!

**Stephen:** Do you believe that there are people who love evil?

**Suzie:** Yes, but that is not true love!

**George:** I agree, love and evil are incompatible.

**Stephen:** Are you both saying that it is impossible for certain people to love evil? What about Hitler, Stalin, and modern-day terrorist . . . didn't they love evil.

**Suzie and George:** Yes, but that is not true love.

**Stephen:** George, what about the Bible's claim that certain people love evil (*agapao* in LXX of Psa 51:5), that certain people love Mammon more than God (*agapao* in Matt. 6:24) . . . and that believers are warned not to love the world more than God (*agapao* in 1 John 2:15)?

**Suzie and George:** But you are not using love the right way.

**Stephen:** I am referring to the universal laws of beings and of love—which, incidentally applies to all instances of love in and out of the Bible. Love in its basic and universal metaphysical nature is simply a desire for something that one perceives as a good. It is universal in that it applies to all things, or beings—e.g., my loves as a human being and my dogs love for ham. Love is always seeking something that is perceived as a good—again, this is the way people in the Old Testament and New Testament as well as today use the word “love.” This is because there is one human nature made in the image of God throughout history and all really do understand the metaphysical nature of love on a fundamental and pre-linguistic level, even if they get mixed up with regard to how language works with reality.

**George:** But how do you distinguish between love for good and love for evil?

**Stephen:** All instances of love, for good or for evil, can be categorized as improper love or proper love. This applies to all instances of love in the Bible and to every person who has ever lived.

**George:** How do you know what is proper or improper?

**Stephen:** That is determined by the law of being, the nature of what is loved. You can think of them as offices of love. I love my God. I love my wife. I love my children. I love my church. I love eggs and bacon. The love is different in each case because of the different beings as objects of love. What determines the kind of love I have for my wife and my children is the kind of beings they are. What distinguishes my love for my church and bacon is determined by the kinds of beings they are. Understanding the beings of things and loving according to those beings is a universal principle that does not suffer from the subjectivity of trying to base love on the original languages or historical framework. The law of beings is a universal principle that applies to all, period! It cannot be denied.

**Suzie:** I still think we just need to love each other and stop trying to overanalyze love.

**Stephen:** Consider all the wars fought in human history in the name of love for something—territory, country, protection, wealth, superiority? Under the name of love, all kinds of tragedies have occurred through history. The issue is not love. The issue is whether the love is proper or improper—for good or for evil. Again, this is an undeniable truth of being and reality. Even insects and animals have a basic love of self-preservation and are always seeking some good. Even Christ analogously spoke of God's love for His people being like a hen's for her chicks. Again, everyone loves in that they seek what they think is good. The evil person really does seek evil, but only insofar as he sees it as a good in some way. No one seeks evil thinking that it is evil. No one seeks bad absolutely. Everyone lives in love in the sense that everyone seeks what they think is their good for every waking moment. Again, the question is not love, but proper love or improper love. These are undeniable facts of reality, which by the way is why this view of love is consistent with every single reference to love in the Bible and every single person who has ever lived or will ever live. This is what universality and objectivity is all about.