

*Apostle Michael Orokpo*



**WALKING IN LOVE TOWARDS  
OTHERS PT. 2**

*Transcribed and Published by [Livingsermons.com](http://Livingsermons.com)*

# **Walking in Love towards Others Pt. 2**

**By Apostle Michael Orokpo**

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## **Foreword**

*Love is one of the most spoken-about subjects in the Christian faith, yet it remains one of the least understood realities in practical living. Many believers understand love in the language of affection, emotion, and pleasant relationships, but very few understand love when it is tested by betrayal, offence, injustice, abuse, slander, rejection, or deep personal pain.*

*This book confronts that reality with unusual honesty and spiritual depth.*

*In these pages, the preacher carefully walks through some of life's most difficult relational questions — questions many believers secretly wrestle with but rarely discuss openly:*

*Can I love someone who abused me?*

*Can I love someone who betrayed me?*

*Can I love someone who killed a member of my family?*

*Can I love someone who slandered me, stole from me, or tried to destroy my life?*

*These are not theoretical questions. They are the painful realities of everyday human existence. Yet through the wisdom of Scripture and the example of Christ, this message reveals that love is not weakness, emotional denial, or passive tolerance of evil. Love is the nature of God expressed through forgiveness, wisdom, restraint, honour, truth, boundaries, mercy, and spiritual maturity.*

*One of the most powerful truths presented in this book is that love is often expressed silently. Sometimes love is not saying, "I love you," but refusing retaliation. Sometimes it is releasing bitterness. Sometimes it is allowing justice without hatred. Sometimes it is walking away wisely while still praying for another person's repentance and restoration.*

*This message restores balance to the believer's understanding of love. It teaches that forgiveness does not cancel wisdom, mercy does not destroy justice, and kindness does*

*not eliminate boundaries. Through these teachings, readers will discover that genuine love is not sentimental weakness — it is divine strength.*

*As you read, you will notice the deeply pastoral nature of this message. It does not trivialise pain, overlook trauma, or ignore human emotions. Instead, it gently but firmly points the believer back to the heart of the Father and the example of Jesus Christ.*

*At LivingSermons.com, it remains our burden to preserve and distribute Kingdom messages that shape believers into the image of Christ. We believe this book carries timely wisdom for a generation navigating broken relationships, wounded hearts, offence, anger, and emotional conflict.*

*May this message heal hearts, restore perspective, and awaken believers to the higher life of divine love.*

*Most importantly, may it lead many into the strength, freedom, and authority that flow from walking in the love of God.*

**— Wisdom Epsi**  
**Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com**

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## *Publisher's Note*

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube at the [\*\*Apostle Michael Orokpo Official Channel\*\*](#)

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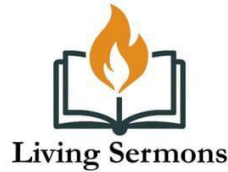
It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— *Livingsermons.com*

*A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship*

## ***Main Message***

*Begins Here*



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## *The Wisdom Dimension of Love*

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Tonight, I want to complete the teaching I started some time back — the series on love. My focus this evening is to answer difficult questions about love. Praise God. This evening, we want to round up that series, but as a way of recap, I want to touch on three things that I dealt with already.

I broke this teaching down into three major components.

The first component is loving God — how to love God, how to receive love from God, and the blessings of loving the Lord. We took time to deal with that exhaustively. In fact, I also touched on the danger of not loving God. I need you to take your time to listen to these messages again and again. They will bless you.

Secondly, I dealt with how to receive the love of God and the blessings of walking in the love of God.

Then thirdly, I dealt with loving ourselves — loving one another. That is where we are, and that is what I am rounding up this evening.

All of these dimensions were carefully dealt with using critical definitions from Scripture. I showed you how to love God, what it means to love God, how to receive God's love, and how to love one another.

But this evening, for the purpose of recap, I want to remind you of ten critical reasons why we all must walk in love, whether towards God or towards man.

Then I want to redefine what love is and show you how to express love towards others because some of us do not really know how to express love towards others.

When I am done with that, then we are going to answer forty critical love questions as we deal with ourselves.

Because as you walk in love, you are going to realise that love requires a lot of wisdom. If you love without wisdom, you will die. So there is discretion as you walk in love.

## *Love Is the Nature of God*

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Quickly, let us be reminded of the reasons why love is very critical. Number one: love is the nature of God. When you are dealing with love, it means you have modelled God's nature because love is the essence of God. In 1 John 4:8 and verse 16, the Bible tells us that God is love:

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” — 1 John 4:8 (KJV)

Verse 16 reiterates the emphasis:

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” — 1 John 4:16 (KJV)

The reason why you must make up your mind to walk in love is because when you walk in love, you embody and express God's nature. There are people who are very expressive about their conviction of knowing God and being like God. Sometimes they demonstrate explosive dimensions of the anointing or aggressive means of communicating God's oracles. But no matter how you attempt to express God's nature, if love is not a critical component of it, the Bible says you do not know God, you do not dwell in God, and you do not have God's nature. So love is a must because it is the essence of God.

## *Love Is the Greatest Virtue*

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Secondly, love is important because it is the greatest virtue of all the virtues that are in God.

The Bible says love is the greatest.

You need to study the Bible to see the premium God places on different virtues that are from Him.

For example, the Bible says:

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” — Proverbs 4:7 (KJV)

Wisdom is powerful in God’s realm.

The Bible says:

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established.” — Proverbs 24:3 (KJV)

Faith is also critical.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him.” — Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

The just shall live by faith. We approach God through faith.

So there are many important virtues in God. But when you study them carefully, one thing becomes clear: of all these virtues, God considers love to be the greatest.

In 1 Corinthians 13:2–3, Paul said:

“Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge... and have not charity, I am nothing.” — 1 Corinthians 13:2 (KJV)

He continued:

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” — 1 Corinthians 13:3 (KJV)

Then in verse 13, he concludes:

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” — 1 Corinthians 13:13 (KJV)

Whether prophecy, knowledge, power, or any other virtue, love remains the greatest.

## *Love Fulfils the Law*

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Another reason love is critical is because love is the fulfilment of the law.

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” — Romans 13:10 (KJV)

Love is the summation of all the moral requirements of God. A man who truly loves is righteous because love restrains evil. Paul corroborated this in Galatians 5:14:

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” — Galatians 5:14 (KJV)

Anybody who walks in love cannot deliberately offend God because love naturally works against evil.

## *Love Identifies the True Disciple*

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Love is the identification mark of every true disciple. There are many marks of discipleship, but the highest among them is love.

Jesus said:

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you.” — John 13:34 (KJV)

Then He added:

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” — John 13:35 (KJV)

The Bible also says:

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.” — 1 John 3:14 (KJV)

The seal of genuine spirituality is love.

## *Love Gives Meaning to Spiritual Gifts*

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Love is what gives meaning to spiritual gifts. Without love, spiritual gifts can become tools for self-glorification and manipulation.

Paul said:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass.” — 1 Corinthians 13:1 (KJV)

Love is what justifies spiritual manifestations in the eyes of God. As you pursue spiritual gifts, the Bible says you should pursue the more excellent way — and that way is love.

## *Love Is the Proof of Maturity*

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Love is the proof of spiritual maturity. The Bible calls it “the bond of perfectness.”

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”  
— Colossians 3:14 (KJV)

You can raise the dead, work miracles, and manifest gifts, but if love is absent, Scripture still classifies you as immature. Paul spoke about the Corinthian church. They had utterance, knowledge, and gifts, yet he said:

“I... could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” — 1 Corinthians 3:1 (KJV)

Why?

Because among them were envy, strife, and divisions. That means spiritual gifts do not automatically equal maturity. A believer may manifest power and still be immature in character.

Sometimes God deliberately allows believers to go through seasons of obscurity and humble service to heal their hearts.

Some people only want visible roles, honourable positions, and recognition. But God is interested in building character before prominence.

If God wants to help you, He will carry you through process.

Sometimes for years, it may look like nobody notices you. Yet God is training your heart so that you can last.

Many believers are offended when they are asked to serve in hidden places. But the Kingdom way is humility.

A point comes where whether you are honoured or not, you still serve joyfully.

That is maturity.

## *Love Gives Boldness*

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Love gives boldness on the day of judgement.

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment.” — 1 John 4:17 (KJV)

The Bible says:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.” — 1 John 4:18 (KJV)

A man who walks in love naturally walks in boldness because he has nothing to hide.

## *Love Attracts God's Presence*

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Love invokes God's presence.

“If we love one another, God dwelleth in us.” — 1 John 4:12 (KJV)

Jesus also said:

“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” — John 14:23 (KJV)

Those who walk in love carry tangible presence.

There are people who labour intensely in prayer and fasting, yet the atmosphere around them remains dry. Then there are others who simply say, “Thank You, Holy Spirit,” and God’s presence floods the atmosphere.

Why?

Because love makes God your atmosphere.

Angels are not sentimental. They respond to divine reality.

A man clothed with love carries God tangibly.

## *Love Never Fails*

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Finally, love never fails.

“Charity never faileth.” — 1 Corinthians 13:8 (KJV)

Prophecies may fail. Tongues may cease. Knowledge may vanish. But love abides forever. That is why even on the day of judgement, love still speaks. None of the charismatic expressions of Christianity compare with love.

## *Deep Insight On Love*

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Having said this, I took time to define what love is because it is important. I told us that there are four categories or four types of love. But the one we are focusing on is agape love. If you study the Greek renderings of Scripture, you will discover four different words used for love.

### *Understanding the Different Dimensions of Love*

The first type of love is the word *eros*. This speaks of emotional and romantic love.

In Song of Solomon 1:2, the Bible says:

“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.” — Song of Solomon 1:2 (KJV)

This is the romantic dimension of love. However, the challenge with this kind of love is that it is built on affection. It is largely dependent on one’s definition of beauty and desire. Where beauty fades and desire disappears, this kind of love often dies.

That is why in many parts of the world today, people can appear deeply attached to one another, and within a few years they become like enemies. They say they no longer love themselves because what they operated in was built primarily on desire and attraction.

Someone may say, “I love you with all my heart,” yet a challenge affects your appearance or desirability and suddenly the affection disappears. That is the limitation of *eros*. It is powered by attraction and desire.

## ***Philia – The Love of Friendship***

The second type of love is *philia*. This is the friendship dimension of love.

Jesus said:

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13 (KJV)

Romans 12:10 also captures this thought:

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love...” – Romans 12:10 (KJV)

This is friendship love.

The challenge with *philia* is that it is regulated by circumstances. If people spend enough time together, communicate frequently, or share helpful experiences, friendship naturally develops.

That is why many friendships are formed in school environments. Students spend years together in the same class, and daily interaction creates emotional bonds. Yet after separation, those friendships sometimes weaken because the circumstance that sustained the connection has changed. The affection was genuine, but it was sustained by proximity and shared experiences.

## ***Storge – Covenant and Companionship Love***

The third type of love is *storge*. This is companionship love. It is built upon blood relationships or covenant relationships. Unlike *eros*, which is built on beauty and desire, or *philia*, which is built on circumstances, *storge* is rooted in bonds deeper than immediate needs or attraction.

This is why you love your siblings or close family members even when there is nothing to gain materially from them. There is simply a connection that exists beyond

explanation. In the body of Christ, believers also experience this dimension of love because there is a covenant in Christ that binds hearts together.

Sometimes this bond becomes so deep that when such a person passes away, it feels as though a part of you has been disconnected.

That is storge.

## *Agape – The God Kind of Love*

Finally, there is *agape*. Agape is the God kind of love.

This love is covenantal, yet it goes beyond covenant. It is rooted in something sacred and supernatural — something beyond human strength. The principal expression of agape is sacrifice.

When a man grows beyond eros, beyond philia, and beyond storge, he begins to operate in agape. This is divine love. Many of the requirements of agape cannot be fulfilled through human effort alone.

Someone betrays you, yet you still love the person. At that point, you realise this love is beyond desire because desire has been violated. It is beyond circumstances because the circumstances no longer support the relationship. It is even beyond covenant because the code of the covenant has been broken.

Yet you still choose to love. That means you are operating in a love that is beyond yourself. You love because of God. This is why, within the context of agape, you can love your enemies. You can forgive betrayal because your love is not merely rooted in the person; it is rooted in God.

This is where God wants believers to operate. The other dimensions of love are valid, but God wants all our expressions of love to be founded upon agape.

## *The Fruit of the Spirit*

The Bible further defines love in Galatians 5:22–23:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” — Galatians 5:22–23  
(KJV)

I took time to explain that the Bible calls these virtues “the fruit of the Spirit” because God expects them to grow out of your spirit.

Jesus taught about the vine and the branches in John 15:1–5. Fruits grow on branches.

That means these fruits are expected to grow through the believer’s life as he remains connected to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit supplies the life, but the believer must bear the fruit.

Also notice that Scripture does not say “the fruits of the Spirit are.” It says:

“The fruit of the Spirit is...”

This means all nine dimensions are expressions of one reality — love.

## *Joy as an Expression of Love*

The second word mentioned after love is joy.

The Greek word used there speaks of deep gladness that exists regardless of circumstances.

Whether things are working or not, there remains a supernatural gladness in the spirit.

When someone is betrayed, disappointed, or attacked, yet still carries joy, that is love at work.

Naturally, bitterness should arise. Offence should arise. Yet the heart remains glad before God.

That is agape functioning within the believer.

### *Peace as an Expression of Love*

The next expression is peace. This speaks of wholeness, completeness, and harmony. There are moments when someone offends you and the natural response should be anger or retaliation, yet inwardly there is calmness and stability.

You are not pretending to be calm. You are genuinely undisturbed. The offence did not destabilise you. That is the peace produced by agape love. This is why agape is powerful.

It keeps a man gathered even in difficult moments.

### *Longsuffering - Enduring Without Retaliation*

Another expression of love is longsuffering. This is the ability to endure provocation without desiring retaliation. Peace means the offence did not destabilise you. Longsuffering means even when retaliation appears justified, you refuse to retaliate.

Someone speaks evil against you, and instead of reacting in bitterness, you pray for them.

That is longsuffering.

## **A Test of Longsuffering**

I remember a season during my NYSC days when I travelled for a programme after being invited by a pastor.

I barely had enough money for transportation. At different points during the journey, God had to help me through unusual acts of favour.

Eventually, after serving tirelessly throughout the programme, I approached the pastor before leaving and explained that I needed transport money to return because I had told him earlier that I did not have funds.

He said he would settle the guest ministers and send for me later.

I waited, but nothing happened.

Eventually, through God's mercy and unexpected provision, I made it back safely.

That evening, after arriving home, the Holy Spirit instructed me to pray for the pastor.

Humanly speaking, that was not the appropriate reaction. Yet God would not allow retaliation.

That is longsuffering.

Longsuffering is beyond patience.

Patience means you can endure for a long time.

Longsuffering means even when your season changes and you finally have the power to retaliate, you still refuse to respond evil for evil.

That is a flavour of agape.

## ***Kindness and Benevolence***

Another expression of love is kindness. Kindness speaks of benevolence. Love is not merely verbal; love acts.

A person operating in love helps others without destroying their dignity. There are people who help others while humiliating them publicly. That is not love. True love preserves dignity.

Sometimes a person is hungry, but instead of exposing the person's condition, wisdom and love create honour around the assistance.

You may simply say:

“Can we have lunch together?”

Meanwhile, your intention is to help. You sustain the person's dignity while meeting the need. That is benevolence.

Do not dehumanise people because you want to help them. If you truly walk in love, people's dignity will remain intact around you.

## ***Faithfulness and Reliability***

Love is also faithful.

The Greek word here speaks of loyalty, reliability, steadfastness, and trustworthiness. A person who truly loves becomes dependable. People should be able to confidently recommend you because your integrity is established. Paul demonstrated this when he wrote concerning Onesimus in the book of Philemon. A man could be entrusted to another simply on the strength of covenant and love.

True love creates reliability.

## *The Humility of Love*

Love is also meek and gentle.

Love is humble.

A person may occupy a position of authority and still treat people with honour and dignity.

There are environments where people are constantly dehumanised in the name of honour. That is not Kingdom love.

Human beings should be treated with dignity because we are raising kings.

There is nothing wrong with respect, but honour should never destroy a person's humanity.

Love does not use people.

Love values people.

Many people grew up in environments where dignity was absent, and this affected the way they related with authority figures.

But agape restores honour to people.

Love sees value in every individual.

### **Ministering on the Nature and Practice of Divine Love**

Finally, self-control.

Self-control is also temperance. It is the ability to contain yourself. Do not let loose because of emotions.

Somebody was once working with me, and the incompetence became too much. I sacked him. I said, “You are sacked.”

Before I drove from the office to the house, the Holy Ghost told me, “Tell him not to go anywhere because the young man has nowhere to go.”

I was still angry and provoked. I said, “You are sacked. I don’t want to see you here again.”

He knew I meant it.

While I was driving home — just about five minutes away — the Holy Ghost said, “Call him. If you sack him, I sack you.”

There are times when somebody offends you and you say, “Don’t show up here again.” Then God tells you to call the person back and say, “Please, it’s alright. Just be careful when you are working. Pay attention.”

Now that this has happened to me, whenever I want to sack somebody, I pray first.

Contain yourself.

Some of you have said things that made you lose your jobs. When they finally hand you the sack letter, you begin to wonder, *Why did I say that?*

Then you spend two years learning self-control while looking for another job.

You said:

“I don’t need you.”

“Are you my God?”

“Go to hell.”

And they replied, “No problem. You are sacked.”

Then you get home, drop the letter on the floor, and begin begging God. You would not have needed to move heaven if you had simply kept quiet.

Many marriages have been destroyed like that.

People speak carelessly in anger, and later regret it.

When you finally learn restraint, then God can commit greater things to you.

Flavours. Dimensions. Glory.

## *How Love Is Expressed*

How do you express love?

Settle down and let this sink into you. I do not want to repeat this teaching, so make sure you truly understand it. The answer is captured in The Holy Bible.

Love is not merely saying, “I love you.”

Many people say “I love you,” yet they are not patient. They retaliate whenever they are hurt. They are not kind. They are not benevolent. That is the problem with our world. We say things we neither understand nor mean.

“I love you” is everywhere.

In one night, some people type “I love you” thirty times, yet they cannot forgive. They call the person honey, sugar, sweetheart — because talk is cheap. Love is beyond saying the words. When you say, “I love you,” your heart disposition must reflect it.

# Love Is Not Easily Provoked

Love is patient.

Love is kind.

Love is not jealous.

If you tell somebody you love them, then you should be willing to celebrate their success. Some people only love you while you are weak, poor, and failing. The moment honour comes to you beyond them, they begin to struggle internally.

Can you imagine praying because God is lifting somebody else?

What kind of humanity is that?

Some people say, “I love you,” but what they really mean is: “Remain at this level. Do not rise beyond me.”

The moment favour begins to speak for you, those same people become competitors. Love is not jealous. Be sincerely happy for others. And do not merely celebrate them — sponsor them into greatness. If somebody else is entering the limelight and you have something that can add value to that person, give it freely.

That is love.

Practice it deliberately.

At a recent conference, Pastor Godwin and I gave all our vehicles to guests and ministers. Eventually, even the one we drove there was given away because another man of God needed transportation, and one of my protocol team members drove me instead.

If you are not the one singing, support the singer. If you are not the one being celebrated, support the one being celebrated. Anything you have that can add value to another person — release it joyfully.

That is love.

Many people only enjoy honour while they are the ones receiving the applause. Once another person begins to shine, they become uncomfortable.

They say:

“Finish this thing quickly.”

“Are these people God?”

“Why all this honour?”

It is not because they are defending God. It is because they are not the ones being honoured.

## **Love Is Not Proud**

If God is helping you, do not make others feel worthless. Do not rub your success in people’s faces. Some people speak as though their elevation makes them superior to everyone else:

“If you want to be where I am, pay the price.”

No.

If God lifts you, encourage others so they can believe God will lift them too. When people come around you, they should leave believing that God helps people — not believing that you are some untouchable special case.

There are people you meet who make you feel hopeless around them, as though greatness is reserved for a select few. But there are others whose spirit encourages you. Their light does not overshadow you; it inspires you to shine too. When God puts light upon you, it is so others can shine through you.

The light is not meant to keep everyone else in darkness.

## **Love Is Not Rude**

You see some celebrities — both in the world and even in church. You greet them, and they stare at you with contempt. You ask a question, and they answer in a way that humiliates you. But a person walking in love, even while correcting you, will still make you feel valuable.

A person without love can make you feel foolish even when you are right. Love does not insist on its own way. Some people pray for revival, but what they really mean is:

“Lord, use me for revival. But if You won’t use me, then let revival wait.”

That is selfishness.

True love says:

“Lord, whoever You choose to use, we will follow joyfully because the glory belongs to You.”

## **Love Is Not Irritable**

Some people are difficult to help because everything irritates them. You try to be kind to them, and they respond with hostility. Love is accommodating.

You should be able to hug a beggar — not because you love dirtiness, but because you want that person to feel human again.

A beggar may smell unpleasant, but love can overlook discomfort just to restore dignity to another soul.

That is love.

## **Love Keeps No Record of Wrongs**

Some marriages are suffering because people maintain detailed records of offences.

“In 1998, by 2:00 PM, you called me a foolish woman.”

“In 1999, you insulted me publicly.”

“In 2001, you slapped me.”

“In 2018, you embarrassed me before my friends.”

They can recount twenty-four offences over fourteen years with exact timestamps. But the problem is this: You are the one carrying the weight. The other person may have forgotten long ago.

Bitterness destroys the carrier. Am I saying you should pretend hurt never happened? No.

Your memory was not deleted. But you must let go in your heart so that the memory no longer controls you, hurts you, or influences your decisions. That is what the Bible means when it says love keeps no record of wrongs. You may remember, but do not allow it to possess your heart.

Otherwise, Satan enters through bitterness.

## **Love Rejoices in Truth**

Love does not rejoice in evil. Even if somebody who offended you suffers, do not celebrate it. Somebody once sent me a post attacking a man everyone considered arrogant. People were mocking him. I said, “Wait. This particular thing he said is actually correct.”

Love allows you to judge matters objectively instead of through bitterness. People interpret your actions through their perception of you. If they think you are arrogant, they will see arrogance in everything you do.

But when you walk in love, you remain objective and truthful. And when people fall, do not celebrate it.

Do not say:

“Yes! Let him die.”

“Serves him right.”

Never speak like that. What you do not know is that Satan uses such doors to destroy people because you have approved the destruction of humanity in your heart.

## **Love Never Gives Up**

Love never gives up — but understand the context. This does not mean you should remain in dangerous or destructive relationships. If someone wants to use you for ritual purposes, do not stay there quoting “love never gives up.” Your head will end up in a basin. You may separate yourself for safety, but still believe God can change the person someday.

Love believes.

Love hopes.

Love endures.

Real love gives strength. Some people believed in us until God finally arrested our hearts. That is why we are here today. So we too must continue believing in others.

## **Love Is the Greatest**

Prophecies will fade. Tongues will cease. Knowledge is partial. But love lasts forever. When we mature fully, many temporary things will no longer be necessary. Those who refuse to walk in love are childish. Love is maturity.

Right now, our knowledge is incomplete. We cannot fully know people, motives, or outcomes. But love covers the deficiency of our understanding.

I may not know whether somebody will remain faithful till the end. I may not know whether they are trustworthy. Yet I still choose to relate with purity because love fills the gap where knowledge is lacking.

And the Scripture concludes:

“Three things will last forever — faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

## **A Prayer for Transformation**

We need to be repaired, restructured, and re-engineered into the way of love.

Somebody cry out:

“Fix me, Lord.

Help me talk like You, walk like You, and love like You.”

One of the ways God repairs people is by introducing them to the way of love.

Many people think they are merely holding grudges, but they are actually cultivating bitterness — and bitterness defiles.

Jealousy, envy, and offence open doors to Satan.

The Bible says faith works by love.

Sometimes, the reason spiritual warfare seems ineffective is because bitterness has already given the enemy legal access.

When God wants to make you impregnable against darkness, sometimes the answer is not more revelation — it is love.

Do not hold grudges.

If justice needs to take its course, let justice flow. But never hold bitterness in your heart.

Lay aside every weight.

Do not allow unforgiveness to give Satan a foothold.

And if you ask God for help, He will help you.

This love is not mere human affection. It is agape — the God-kind of love.

It surpasses understanding.

Perhaps some people are wounded today not because of what others did to them, but because they refused to respond in love.

No matter what people do to you, your response determines whether the damage remains.

If you respond in love, you remain intact.

You forgive.

You release the hurt.

You refuse to keep records.

And the presence of God remains upon you.

Love forgives.

Love lets go.



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## *Questions and Answers on Love*

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### **Can I Love Someone I Have Divorced?**

Yes.

Not only *can* you love them — you *should* love them.

The Bible says in The Holy Bible:

“As much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

How then do you love someone you have divorced?

#### **1. Release Resentment**

Do not hold bitterness or grudges.

#### **2. Do Not Speak Evil About Them**

Refuse to slander them.

#### **3. Maintain Healthy Distance**

If the relationship lawfully ended because closeness became harmful or impossible, then maintain healthy boundaries.

You may greet each other respectfully if you meet, even in church, but do not return to unhealthy closeness.

Loving them now does not mean calling to say, “I love you.”

That season has passed.

Love now means:

- refusing bitterness,
- refusing evil speech,
- and wishing them no harm.

## **Can I Love Someone Who Is a Threat to My Life?**

Yes — and you should.

But wisdom and self-preservation must be prioritised.

The Holy Bible says:

“Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

### **How Do You Love Such a Person?**

#### **1. Remove Yourself from Danger**

Some people misunderstand love and become dangerously naïve.

You can pray for dangerous people without remaining physically close to them.

We love sinners, but we do not participate in destructive lifestyles with them.

#### **2. Refuse Revenge**

Do not seek retaliation.

Forgive.

### **3. Allow Justice to Take Its Course**

If a criminal is arrested, do not obstruct justice under the guise of spirituality.

Justice protects others too.

### **4. Pray for Them**

Ask God to encounter and transform them.

A murderer today may become an apostle tomorrow.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He prayed:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

That is the pattern of divine love.

Pray:

“Lord, reveal Yourself to them. Transform them. Show them mercy.”

But while praying, remain out of danger.

That is wisdom walking together with love.

## **Loving Those Who Hurt You**

Many people attend warfare churches where every prayer is, “Die by fire!” But if you are led by the Holy Spirit to bring judgment, that is different. That is a leading of the Spirit. However, if God is not stirring you in that direction, Jesus instructed us to show mercy and love even to our enemies. He said when we do so, we heap coals of fire upon them.

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# **Can I Love Someone Who Violated or Abused Me?**

Somebody raped you, abused you, or dehumanised you. Can you love them? Yes, you can.

This kind of love is not romantic love. It is agape — the God kind of love. This subject is sensitive because of the devastating effect abuse has on people. Nonetheless, for your own good, you should let go and love anyone who abused you, because carrying bitterness is a yoke you do not want to bear, and revenge is not your responsibility.

Romans 12:19 says:

“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

Some people were abused at five years old, others at twelve or fifteen, and they carried the pain for twenty years. Their hearts became bitter. They could no longer love people. Even those who genuinely loved them became suspects in their eyes, and life became difficult for them.

For your own good, and for Christ’s sake, love them.

## **How Do You Express This Love?**

### **1. Leave Vengeance to God**

Commit judgment to God.

### **2. Refuse to Hate Them**

This love is not emotion; it is a choice.

Hatred will build bitterness in you and eventually destroy you. Pray if you must. Speak to yourself until your soul is renewed. Remember that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, so forgive for Christ’s sake.

### **3. Allow Justice to Take Its Course**

Pray that through the process of justice, the person will receive light and transformation.

Why allow justice? Because if people are not transformed and they do not repent, they can become dangers to others. Sometimes justice becomes the channel for encounter and repentance.

That too is love.

## **Can I Love Someone Who Killed a Member of My Family?**

Yes, you can. And yes, you should.

Why? Because humanity killed the Son of God, yet God forgave us.

Luke 23:34 says:

“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

If a member of your family has been killed, take the example of the Father and the example of Jesus.

### **How Do You Express This Love?**

#### **1. Do Not Retaliate**

Commit judgment to God.

If you witnessed the incident personally, the temptation toward revenge may be overwhelming. But commit judgment to God.

## **2. Deliberately Fight Bitterness**

If you allow bitterness into your heart, Satan will use that pain to destroy another life — yours.

Your loved one may already be gone, but bitterness can make it impossible for you to fulfil purpose. Refuse bitterness. Pray about it continually.

## **3. Allow Justice**

Never stand in the way of justice.

Justice protects society and can become a pathway for repentance. However, while justice takes its course, guard your heart carefully. Do not let hatred enter you.

That is how love is expressed in such circumstances.



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## *A Portrait of Divine Love*

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There was a crime case in the United States where a young man killed the teenage son of another family.

When the family appeared in court, the killer showed no remorse. He behaved arrogantly, almost as though he would commit the crime again if given another opportunity.

Yet the parents of the murdered boy stood and said:

“We forgive you.”

The judge himself was deeply moved. The young man was sentenced to many years in prison without parole, but the family still forgave him.

That moment revealed something divine. Forgiveness at that level is not ordinary human behaviour. It reflects the heart of God.

## **Can I Love Someone Who Slandered Me?**

Someone lied about you, gossiped about you, or tore your name apart publicly. Can you love them? Yes.

1 Peter 2:23 says concerning Jesus:

“When he was reviled, reviled not again.”

## **How Do You Love Such People?**

### **1. Do Not Retaliate**

The natural response is to expose them in return. Someone says, “Titus called you a liar.”

Immediately you want to reply:

“Is it that same Titus they caught in a hotel three months ago?”

You begin opening his file.

Do not do that.

### **2. Maintain Integrity**

Do not become a slanderer yourself. Explain yourself if necessary, but never descend into backbiting.

### **3. Allow God to Vindicate You**

Sometimes we want to humiliate people until they confess publicly. But allow God to vindicate you. Love expresses itself through restraint.

## **Love Is Often Silent**

Many times, genuine love is not expressed by saying, “I love you.”

Real love is revealed when:

- Someone attacks you and you do not retaliate.
- Someone slanders you and you refuse to slander back.
- Someone wounds you and you still refuse bitterness.

These are dimensions of love in the eyes of God.

# Can I Love Someone Who Took My Spouse?

Yes, you can.

Painful as it is, you must still walk in love because love is God's nature, and you carry His nature.

Luke 6:28 says:

“Bless them that curse you.”

## How Do You Show This Love?

### 1. Refuse Hatred

You may never verbally tell them you love them, and that is understandable. But refuse hatred.

### 2. Pray for Their Repentance

Especially if you desire restoration in your marriage, pray for repentance and transformation.

### 3. Recover Your Marriage

If you are not giving up on the marriage, then fight for restoration wisely.

Even if children are involved, act objectively and responsibly.

Do not allow bitterness to dominate you.

### 4. Establish Boundaries

If restoration occurs, create clear boundaries.

Block destructive connections completely and allow trust to be rebuilt over time.

Sometimes love requires distance and accountability.

# Can I Love Someone Who Stole From Me?

Yes.

Luke 6:30 says:

“Him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.”

## How Do You Love Them?

### 1. Release Offence

Refuse bitterness and hatred.

### 2. Do Not Seek Revenge

This does not mean justice should not happen.

If the stolen property can be recovered, recover it. If repayment can happen, let repayment happen.

But do not abuse your power or seek cruel revenge.

Some communities burn thieves alive. That is wickedness.

A young boy once stole garri because he was hungry, and before the police arrived, he was burned alive. Such responses are not justice.

Allow lawful justice to take its course, but never allow bitterness to drive you into cruelty.

### 3. Create Wise Boundaries

Do not continue giving the person access to opportunities for theft.

Sometimes love protects itself through wisdom.

## **Can I Love Someone Trying to Lure Me Into Sin?**

Yes, but not through closeness.

### **How Do You Love Them?**

#### **1. Flee From Them**

1 Corinthians 6:18 says:

“Flee fornication.”

If someone is leading you toward sin, create permanent boundaries.

There is no “strong man” or “strong woman” in these matters. The Bible says flee.

#### **2. Pray for Their Repentance**

Your prayer for them is an expression of love.

But never maintain dangerous closeness under the excuse of compassion.

Especially for ministers, be careful. When scandals happen, people often expect the minister to have maintained the boundary.

Love wisely.

## **Can I Love People Who Constantly Disrespect Me?**

Yes.

Romans 12:17 says:

“Recompense to no man evil for evil.”

### **How Do You Love Them?**

## **1. Respond With Honour**

Do not answer insult with insult.

Some people respond:

“Do you know who I am?”

You are a human being. Everybody knows who you are.

Respond with honour.

## **2. Set Boundaries**

After correcting them respectfully, create proper boundaries.

Sometimes boundaries are acts of wisdom and love.

# **Love in Everyday Life**

Many believers think love exists only in affection and emotional expression.

But real life presents situations where love must be expressed through:

- restraint,
- forgiveness,
- honour,
- wisdom,
- boundaries,
- mercy,
- and self-control.

That is the true test of love.

# Can I Love Someone Who Betrayed Me?

Yes.

## How Do You Love Them?

### 1. Forgive Sincerely

Jesus forgave even those who crucified Him.

He forgave Peter after Peter denied Him three times.

After the resurrection, Jesus specifically mentioned Peter because He did not want shame to keep him away.

### 2. Release Offence

Do not carry betrayal in your heart.

### 3. Rebuild Trust Wisely

Love forgives, but trust may need rebuilding.

If the relationship is not dangerous, allow trust to grow again gradually.

But if the person endangers your life or destiny, establish boundaries.

## *Closing Exhortation*

There are many more questions:

- Can I love someone who competes with me?
- Can I love someone who falsely accused me?
- Can I love someone who rejected me when I was small?
- Can I love someone who manipulated me?
- Can I love someone who refuses to change?

The answer remains the same: walk in the love of God.

Love is not weakness.

Love is strength.

Love is not disadvantage.

Love is God's system of advantage.

And when you walk in love, you do not merely behave like God — you operate in His realm of power and authority.

God bless you.



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## *About the Speaker*

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Apostle Michael Orokpo is a Nigerian apostolic teacher and revivalist widely known for his depth in the Word of God and his strong emphasis on spiritual formation, priesthood, and kingdom influence. He serves as the lead minister of **Encounter Jesus Ministries International**, a ministry committed to raising believers who encounter Christ genuinely and live out the reality of His kingdom in everyday life.

Through conferences, leadership gatherings, and intensive teaching meetings across Africa and beyond, Apostle Orokpo has consistently called the Church to move beyond superficial Christianity into deeper consecration, spiritual intelligence, and transformational leadership. His teachings frequently emphasise the believer's authority in Christ, the responsibility of spiritual gatekeeping, and the need for men and women who can stand as watchmen over territories, systems, and nations according to the purposes of God.



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