

January 24th, 2005 — Subject: Love

DEAR FRIENDS: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from the first three, and last two pages of a Clarence Steves CSB Association Address. For a brief biography on our featured authors, click [here](#).

LOVE

Association Address of 1963

by

Clarence Steves

Part I

When Mary Baker Eddy discovered *God* to be *Love*, and thus divine Principle, she wrote, “LOVE *what* a word! I am in awe before it.”(Miscellaneous *Writings*) Why does she say “in awe before it”? Is this a promised land, a universe of Love, which we look for, and hope with longing prayer some day to be able to experience? Mrs. Eddy also says, “I have a world of wisdom and Love to contemplate... “(ibid) Where is this universe of Love before which our Leader stood in awe? Was it not her own conscious identification?

What does the word *awe* mean? It has the meaning of sublime, wonder, majesty and reverence. She saw that this universe was her own universal body and that man is this wonder of eternal Mind, — that man is the sublimity of Truth, the majesty of Principle, the freshness of Soul, the unalterable fact of perfect being. Then, cannot we too stand “in awe” before this word *Love*? Man is not something outside, contemplating Love. We can acknowledge here and now that man is the universe of Love. Man lives in and as divine Love. Man moves in and as divine Love. Man has being in and as divine Love. This is the oneness of Father and son, Mind and its infinite, indissoluble manifestation.

The “Scientific Statement of Being” as given in the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, shows us that we never have been a part of a universe of

time and personal sense, that only infinite Mind is infinitely manifesting itself, is All. So we are to acknowledge that this universe of Love is body, is home, is government, is church, is man, is All. Therefore, let us get used to being the universe of Love — not something that wants to be loved, not something that is trying to find something or someone to love — but that man is the loveliness of Love! Our Leader saw that this synonym *Love* also embraces the intrinsic value of the quality *Principle* within it. In this concept of the divine Principle, Love, we find the Love that never faileth, the Love that is impersonal, the Love that is universal. There is no personal sense to love or to be loved. If we refuse to accept the world belief that we are persons, then we will not be trying to love. God is Love, and man is the expression of God's loving. Man does not love; man is God loving, God being. Man is the embodiment of God, Principle, Love itself.

Someone once asked, "Please define the word *Love*." And I answered, "You cannot define it intellectually. You can only live it!" Yes, Love must be lived. Love must be felt. This Love is living, and this Love is feeling, is conscious identity, and It centers on the very minutiae of our daily life. Love goes to every part of the body, universe, government, home, church, and makes it every whit whole. In her poem, "Satisfied," Mrs. Eddy writes, "It matters not what be thy lot, so Love doth guide..." And she continues, "And of these stones, and tyrants' thrones, God able is to raise up seed — in thought and deed — to faithful His." The "stones" are disposed of because Love knows nothing hard, nothing harsh. Love is the law of refinement. The law of Love is the law of purity. It is the law of gentleness. When someone asked Satchmo Armstrong, the Jazz artist to define Jazz, he replied, "When you have to define it, brother, you ain't got it!" So when we try to define Love, we do not have it. Love cannot be defined. Words cannot define Love. Love is Soul, and Soul is indefinable. It is a feeling. Love is the term for God that must be felt. To feel and know that God's Love, and that this Love is present and felt, is to give the cup of cold water in Christ's name.

Now let us see that this day is proceeding from and resting upon Love. It has no objects of sense in it to love or be loved.

It is simply Love — immaculate, wholesome, pure Love, seeing nothing unlike itself. This is the message of today: that "Love never loses sight of loveliness." (*Science and Health*) Sometimes we are tempted to believe that we like someone, or that we dislike someone. But let us

see that to like or dislike is personal; it is the evil, hypnotic suggestion that one is personal, local. Let us heal this suggestion today, and see that man is Love loving. It is the pure Love of God.

Why did Mrs. Eddy begin the chapter on “Christian Science Practice” with an illustration of pure impersonal Love? (*Science and Health*) Here was Mary Magdalene, a “strange woman,” an outcast. Yet, Jesus knew that the Love that is God, is present in all its immaculateness, all its purity, to outshine any suggestion contrary to this Love. Mrs. Eddy says that if the Scientist reaches his patient through divine Love, the healing will be instantaneous. Then, in order to have instantaneous healing in our work, we must have the Love that is divine. It is not enough to be loving; it is not enough to be kind — this will not heal. But the Love that looks right straight through that which calls itself the patient, and sees Love that is God, this will outshine the patient, and then the patient will say, “I am well.”

What is the patient? The patient is not a person, a place, or a thing. The patient is simply the suggestion that God is not all-present and not all-power. God is all-present, and God is all-power, and nothing apart from Him is present or has power. Therefore, the Christian Science treatment that knows itself to be Love, knows itself to be the Love that is Principle. It is always restful, peaceful. It never makes the mistake of taking in the picture and then trying to heal it. Christian Science heals scientifically. Christian Science heals metaphysically. Christian Science does not heal physically. It does not heal theologically. Christian Science is metaphysical healing, and this healing comes in the understanding that the only Mind there is, is present, and it alone is present to manifest or to express itself. So let us be obedient to our Leader and find this way of Love.

Our Leader was never interested in what someone thought of her or said about her. She did not live as a person. When she asked in one of her classes, “Do you love me?” they all replied, “Yes.” Then she said, “Love, and include me, but don’t love me [as a person].” The moment we have an object to love, our love ceases to be Principle. The Love that is Principle loves — it loves as the sun shines; it knows nothing unlike itself. Is not this the reason that our Leader says that the adamantness of self-will, self-love, self-justification are against spirituality? The true sense of Love as Principle, being present and in manifestation will not leave a self to be willful, a self that needs to be justified, or that could

possibly love a false sense.

The Love that is Principle is present now, and is specifically felt, universally felt, and man is this feeling of Love's presence. Man has no other feeling because man's Soul is God, man's Mind is God, man's substance is God, man's seeing is God. Then all there is to man, is God being what God is — and what God is, man is, by reflection. Man gives back to God all that God gives. This is reflection.

Man has nothing as man. Man is simply the term, the scientific term for all that God is being. Hence this universal, generic man includes all identification. Is this not the reason that the Bible says, "My glory will I not give to another"? It must be, because there is no 'another.' The Bible also states, "Thou shalt have no gods before Me" — that is, thou shalt have no love before Me, thou shall have no identification before Me. This "Me" is Spirit, God. Our Leader tells us that Spirit constitutes its identification, man. Then is man something separate from God that must love? Or is man the Love that is Principle giving identity to itself? We know the answer is the latter.

Do not be afraid of what Christian Science teaches. We know Christian Science has lifted us out of the petty, personal love — the love that parades as person. The common popular use of this word love has been far removed from the true meaning — the Love that is Principle and has taken on the connotation of lust. Let us know that animal magnetism cannot take this pure, unadulterated word Love and call it lust. Let us be sure that we see that Love never possesses its object.

Love inspires, Love designates, Love illumines. It is therefore necessary for us today to be clear that the Love that is Principle, is alone present.

The Love, the Truth, the Life, the law that is God, constitutes its identity, and this identity is man. Man is Mind's way of of making itself known as the operation of good. The indivisible I AM as cause, effect, present and identified, is the very function of his identity. Hence there is no man there, no man here. This man is everywhere. Even if it looks like another, it still is the indivisible I AM THAT I AM.

We are sometimes fooled by this false sense of a personal love, and then we seem to feel guilt-ridden, condemned, unwanted, unloved. Let us say to this evil hypnotic suggestion: There is no Truth in this picture that you are presenting, because to be truthful, it must be loving, kind,

because God is Love. Love means freedom, Love means perfect action, Love means perfect functioning. There is, therefore, no Love in this picture of self-condemnation, and because there is no Love in it, then there is no Truth in it, because Love alone is Life — God.

A friend wrote that in teaching a Sunday School class one day, she told the class the story of Noah's Ark. After explaining it, she asked the children how it was that Noah and all in the Ark felt so safe during the long, long flood. No one answered. Then a very small five-year-old child looked up and said, "Because they were all cosied up with Love." Another time, it was the story of Daniel in the lion's den, and many of the children were wide-eyed as they thought of Daniel's plight. But the smallest child was not in doubt about Daniel's welfare because she knew that he, too, was cosied in Love. She knew the same about the three Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace. Some time later that little girl was in what seemed to be a very severe accident, where a part of a building gave way and fell on her. The men working to free her, had feared she was mutilated. But she was all right. When her mother asked her later if she had been afraid while they worked to free her, the dear child said, "No, 'cause I was all cosied with Love." Do we have such childlike trust — are we "cosied" in Love?

"Cosy" to this child meant comfortable, loved, secure; and she applied it here with the word *Love*. Man cosied in Love, is warmed, protected, loved. Man is, and always has been, completely enfolded in God's love, inseparable, indivisible, eternal. Let us stop trying to bring this about. Let us relax and enjoy that man is cosied in the love of God, perpetual freedom. As the Hymn says, "He holds us perfect in His love, And we His image bear." Many healings are brought about through the childlike acceptance that this fact is true.

Let us be like the child and accept with joyous, relaxed freedom that it is already so — that Love is present and being experienced as identity.

It is said that Mary Baker Eddy once remarked, "Man walks the earth enveloped in atmosphere of Life, Truth and Love, which holds him in spiritual gravitation. And the force of Love, which man reflects, repels all the illusions of the carnal mind. Man is the son of God and knows his sonship."

We need to see that even what are called "infinitesimals" all belong to the Mind that is Love. The carnal mind claims that infinitesimals are its

agents for subversive activity. It asserts that a germ can destroy the health of man, that a clot of blood can rob him of his intelligence, that a touch of electricity can consume him, that a bullet can take his life, and so on. But Jesus once said that the very hairs on the head are numbered, are cared for, and that the lilies of the field were and are clothed by divine Love, and the least of all seeds, the mustard, could become a tree for birds to rest in. Does this not show us that Love takes care of the infinitesimals as well as the infinite? There is nothing too small or too great that the Father cannot care for. See that everything that concerns your identification home, church, work, all is cared for by the love of the Father.

Sometimes intellectuality fools us. Mrs. Eddy wrote, “’Tis the Spirit that makes pure, That exalts Thee, and will cure.” So it is the spirit of Love, the spirit of Truth that relaxes and brings joyous, childlike acceptance. We can be obedient to what our Leader says, “Willingness to become as a little child, and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea.” (*Science and Health*) Man is forever in the Love that is God. The very atmosphere is Love, the presence is Love, the substance is Love, the Life is Love, Mind is Love; seeing is Love, feeling is Love, hearing is Love. It all comes down to the one eternal fact: that God is Love and man is all that God is being. What God is being, is man — universal, eternal, forever warm, forever loved, forever tenderly watched over. Without man, Love would be unexpressed. Principle and idea is one, and in this coincidence, in this oneness of the Father and son, in this eternal coincidence, nothing unlike Love can remain, because in the coincidence, all that can possibly have presence, reality, substance, is Love.

‘Tis Love, always Love. Say the word quietly. Love. Rest in it. Love. Feel it. All-penetrating, going to every part of the body and body is universal —body is church, body is government. Feel this Love, and then nothing is left to respond to the personal sense. Truly, it is unselfed love. It was this unselfed nature that Jesus knew so well — this agape love. Love that never loses sight of its own pure being. Our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, saw this Love, and was willing to lay aside every suggestion of personal sense, and let the Love that is Principle, be the only presence. We can now go forth as the very living of this divine, ever-present Love, “For Love alone is Life.” (Poem: Love by Mary Baker Eddy)