

I Love You by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

When Americans reflect back to September 11, 2001 ("9/11/01"), remembering when Muslim terrorists hijacked commercial airplanes and flew them into Washington D.C.'s Pentagon and New York City's Twin Towers, they should soberly re-examine details of the day in their minds. The Twin Towers disintegrated into a 5-story pile of rubble, and the most heavily-protected government building in D.C., the Pentagon, was punctured with a hole that would have swamped the Titanic! Most of us have read or heard about heroic actions of passengers in the planes, police and fire personnel on the ground, and of the rapid and complete deployment of assistance from the rest of the country.

According to the written accounts of that day, nearly every cell phone call made by those who died, whether from the planes or in the buildings, ended with "tell Mommy (or Daddy) that I love her/ him" or simply with "I love you." When death was imminent, the victims wanted to reassure their loved ones of their close connection. A frightening thought: what if some cell phones did not have service at that moment? Some may have died without giving this necessary reassurance to someone who meant the most to them. We all recognize the importance of first impressions in life, but in moments of crisis or death, like 9/11, the last impression becomes paramount.

Why Wait?

It is sad to hear people say: "I know my father/ mother must have loved me, but I never heard him/ her say it." Listen to parents who gather around their child's casket sobbing, "When he/ she left for school today, we had been arguing." Funeral home walls echo with the wails of spouses who loudly proclaim their love to a corpse. For what moments are people waiting to say the words "I love you?" What prompting do we need to reassure, with words, those who mean the most to us in life? DON'T WAIT!! Every day, in every way, say, "I love you" to your husband or wife, children, Christian brethren, and above all, Almighty God.

Too Much?

The words "I love you" show commitment, and should never be spoken falsely, nor taken lightly.

- (1) Samson "loved" Delilah (Judges 16:4).** But her betrayal money was worth more to her than Samson (**Judges 16:4-22**). Delilah only used the words as a deceitful ploy to trick Samson into revealing the secret of his strength so she could use that information against him.

Then she said to him, 'How can you say, "I love you," when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies. And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death (**Judges 16:15-16**).

He had committed himself by word, and she wanted to hold him true to his word. Solomon later warns,

Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few (**Ecclesiastes 5:2**).

(2) John admonished Christians to "not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (**I John 3:18**). Thus, if one says "I love God," one must bear the consequence of that confession.

If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also (**I John 4:20-21**).

[Jesus said,] "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word" [and,] "He who does not love Me does not keep My words" (**John 14:23, 24**); [and,] "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**).

It is meaningless and, worse yet, a lie, for someone to say, "I love God/ Jesus Christ" but refuse to obey the Gospel of Christ and love the church of Christ!

(3) Wisdom is personified by Solomon with,

"I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me" (**Proverbs 8:17**).

Christ Jesus "became for us wisdom from God" (**I Corinthians 1:30**), therefore, Jesus has said, "I love those who love me."

These powerful words are sometimes misused by people who say them without their fullest meaning, either in deception or out of ignorance. By saying them, one bears the responsibility they intend: they come from our hearts (**Matthew 12:34-35**); we seek only good for those to whom they are uttered (**Romans 13:10**); and we are following Jesus' example (**I Peter 2:21-24**). If these words convey the heart's truth, then how can they be spoken too much? Should we look more often into mirrors to be reassured of our outward appearance than we "mirror" with words our inner commitment to those who want our reassurance? (**Cf James 1:23-24**)

A Wailing Wall Of Words

Sad, indeed, is the wail of someone who loves another, but does not have it returned.

(1) Job turned to his three friends and said,

"All my close friends abhor me, and those whom I love have turned against me" (**Job 19:19**).

(2) Peter had hastily said, "I will lay down my life for Your sake" (**John 13:37**), which would have shown the greatest love (**John 15:13**). However, in practice, Peter denied 3 times that he knew Jesus. Jesus could not get Peter to confess that he "loved" (Greek *agapao* -"to prefer the best welfare for") Jesus more than the other Apostles, for Peter only would say, "I love (Greek *phileo* -"to be of kind disposition toward, friendly") you" (**John 21:15-17**).

(3) After sacrificing so much while living among the Corinthians with minimum burden to them (**2 Corinthians 11:7-9**), Paul asks, "Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!" (**2 Corinthians 11:11**). The Corinthians took this for granted, it seems, for Paul wrote:

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved" (**2 Corinthians 12:15**).

His confession of love for them showed in his work, but the Corinthians had not reflected to him his own example.

Jesus loved the Father (**John 14:21**); **Paul loved** the Corinthians (**2 Corinthians 12:15**); **and John loved** "the elect lady and her children," and "the beloved Gaius" (**2 John 1**; **3 John 1**). How do we know? They said it! Husbands should let no day pass without these words to the wife he loves as himself (**Ephesians 5:33**). Since women use more words, each wife should tell her husband more often than he does her! Parents should say it often to their children, especially after proper discipline. Children should feel free to follow their parents' examples, by speaking these words.

No Christian should believe or practice any doctrine that would keep him/ her from being able to "Greet one another with a kiss of love" (**1 Peter 5:14**).

Long before 9/11, this writer concluded it is best to end prayers, phone conversations, visits, and correspondences to friends and family with "I love you." One day it will be the last time they hear it, and I want them to have no doubt. Every day we should show and tell (!) God and men that we love them.

-----**John T. Polk II**