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Failing to Love

Whenever we fail to love (which the anointing teaches us, and to abide in Him), it shrinks our capacity to love. The less we do it, the less we are able to do it (1 Jn 3:16), to lay down our lives. It is true that so much of the insecurities, inadequacies, and sins that we have are because of the failure of others to properly love us, so we react negatively, and do not love in response. Others have failed to pay the high cost of loving *me*. But can we look at it in this light? The command is to *me* to love regardless of the response I get from *them*, or how *they* react, or whether *they* deserve my love (Jn 13:34). 1 Jn 3:23,14,16 — This is *agape* (*ahavah*) love.

No one wants to be lonely and unloved. No one really wants to be unloving, yet it costs something to love, and we tend to draw lines limiting how far we will go. Fear is the root of this failure to love. I fear the cost of loving, to surrender myself in loving, because I fear I will lose something I hold very dear. The joy I would find in love is replaced by sadness at the cost of this love (1 Jn 4:18).

So then we start feeling insecure and inferior, and we receive some kind of familiar spirit that tells us that we're not as good as someone else, so we start looking at their weak points and comparing them with our strong points, and so we point the finger as Isa 58:9 says. I become fearful of those more gifted than I. In fear of my own worthlessness, I fear that others will outshine me and show up my nothingness in sharp contrast. I envy them. Envy is sadness over another's blessing which I see as a threat to myself. This is sin against love, because true love always rejoices in the happiness of others. While I am envious, jealous, and tearing down my brother, pointing the finger, deep down I am crying out for love and appreciation, even though I am giving out the opposite to others (1 Cor 13:1).