

It is then only that the Christians are successful in battle, if they practise love in the midst of firmness, strictness and holiness."

Newman Prays for Love

„My GOD, You know infinitely better than I do how small my love is. I am utterly incapable of loving You except with Your grace. Your grace has opened the eyes of my spirit and enabled them to see Your glory. Your grace has touched my heart and prepared it for the influence of what is so wonderfully beautiful and sublime. How could I not love You, O my GOD, unless a terrible wrongness hinders me from seeing You? What is so close to me as You are, my GOD? And yet the things and joys of this earth disturb Your sight if Your grace does not help. Please, protect my eyes and ears and my heart from this unworthy tyranny! Sever the bonds, wake my heart! Hold my whole being tight in You! Let me never lose sight of Your countenance! And while my eye is resting in You, let my love of You grow, daily more!“ Amen!

Excerpt from a sermon of 19 February 2006



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**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,
the + FATHER and the + SON
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

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Sermon

of the *Sword-Bishop*

Love, The One Thing Needful

Part Two

Tolerance

A virtue which is easy to practise is according to Newman the tolerance in dealing with other people. Many uphold this noble virtue, which is indispensable for living together in harmony. However, they sometimes neglect the virtue complementary to it, the firmness in the principles, and therefore they tend to tolerate not only the person who has gone astray but also the error. In Apostle John respectful love of men and zeal for the truth are related to each other in an exemplary fashion. That is why Newman presents him to the Christians as an example.

Preaching the Truth

Newman complained that these Christians have too human an idea of GOD and the Church. Therefore „they ungird their loins and turn soft in their religious duties. Small wonder that their ideal conception of the Church is that she lets each go his own way and renounces every right to express an opinion, even more so to pass judgement on religious error.“ This view of love is according to Newman incompatible with the biblical revelation. He calls upon his listeners: „Here now is our present-day affliction, that is why we must pray that a renewal may come in the spirit and in the power of Elijah. We must pray to GOD that He may thus ‚revive His work in the midst of years‘ (Hab 3,2); send us strict discipline, the watchword of st Paul and st John, viz. ‚to speak the truth in love‘ (Eph 4,15) and ‚to love in truth‘ (3 John 1).