

Book of Concord (Some Headings from the General Index)

Love is the fulfillment of the law / Yet Love does not make us righteous

They are right when they say that love is the keeping of the law, and obedience to the law certainly is righteousness. But they are mistaken when they think that we are justified by the law. We are not justified by the law; but we receive the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation by faith for Christ's sake, not for the sake of love or the keeping of the law. From this it necessarily follows that we are justified by faith in Christ. (Ap IV 159)

No one loves God as he ought

If faith receives the forgiveness of sins on account of love, the forgiveness of sins will always be unsure, for we never love as much as we should. In fact, we do not love at all unless our hearts are sure that the forgiveness of sins has been granted to us. If our opponents require us to trust in our own love for the forgiveness of sins and justification, they completely abolish the Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins. For men can neither render nor understand this love unless they believe that the forgiveness of sins is received freely. (Ap IV 110)

Love Is Impossible without faith in forgiveness through Christ

Though they talk about this disposition, yet without the righteousness of faith man can neither have nor understand the love of God. (Ap IV 18)

Love is Even difficult for the saints

Even for the saints **it is hard** to keep this faith; for the ungodly it is impossible. As we have said before, it comes into being when terrified hearts hear the Gospel and receive consolation. (AP XVIII 8)

Love of neighbor goes against (sinful) nature

Such is nature that we all begrudge another's having as much as we have. Everyone acquires all he can and lets others look out for themselves.²⁹⁸ Yet we all pretend to be upright. (LC I 297-298)

Love follows faith, justification (a necessary fruit)

We say, too, that **love should follow faith**, as Paul also says, "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love" (Gal. 5:6). (Ap IV 111).

Amendment of life and the forsaking of sin would then follow, for these must be the fruits of repentance, as John says, "Bear fruit that befits repentance" (Matt. 3:8). (AC XII 6)

Love should always grow

Therefore we also hold that the keeping of the law should **begin in us and increase more and more**. But we mean to include both elements, namely, the inward spiritual impulses and the outward good works. Our opponents slanderously claim that we do not require good works, whereas we not only require them but show how they can be done. (Ap IV, 136)

Whoever loses Love, loses the Holy Spirit and faith

In this text Paul requires love. We require it, too. We have said above that we should be renewed and begin to keep the law, according to the statement (Jer. 31:33), "I will put my law within their hearts."

Whoever casts away love will not keep his faith, be it ever so great, because he will not keep the Holy Spirit. (Ap IV, 219)

Without love, faith is dead

One party employed such words and formulas as "Good works are necessary to salvation," and "It is impossible to be saved without good works," and "No one has been saved without good works," since good works are required of true believers as fruits of faith and **since faith without love is dead**, although such love is not a cause of salvation. (FC SD IV 1)