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Love Grounding Cooler as a Warning to Last-Day Believers

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze whether the growing coldness of love in the lives of some believers is a warning sign for them in these last days. The approach in this study is a descriptive qualitative method with data collection through various sources such as the Bible and literature, journals, books and interviews. Indonesian social media is currently buzzing with a dramatic case of the premeditated murder of a police officer. Ironically, both those who planned the murder, the victim and who executed or shot the victim are all Christians, which raises a fundamental question: where is love known as the hallmark of the Christian faith? Is the growing love in the lives of some believers a warning sign to them in these last days? The result: The growing coldness of love is a warning to the latter-day believers to repent because some of them continue to live in self-serving worldly passions and ignore the central principle found in Christianity: the love for God reflected through love for each other.

INTRODUCTION

Murder is a crime that is strongly condemned because it is a severe violation of human rights, the laws of a country, or the commands of the Bible. Indonesian social media is currently enlivened with a dramatic case of the premeditated murder of a police officer starting from engineering. The motives are allegedly varied: harassment, infidelity, issues of LGBT status, online gambling crime and corruption, and the ambition to pursue a position (tvOneNews, 2022). Ironically, both those who planned the murder, the murder victim, and those who executed or shot the victim were all Christians.

God's Word clearly and straightforwardly states that people who have believed in Christ, come out of darkness or death, and entered into Light or life are aware of the obligation to show love through sacrifice for others as a representation of Christ's love, real and perfect (John 3:14-16 (NKJV)). This fact has been proven by the early church, Christ's faithful disciples, in serving one another without being concerned with their egos. Still, on the contrary, willing to sacrifice their personal property to meet the needs of others, harmony and unity in brotherly love are created for the glory of the Kingdom of God Acts 2:42-47 (NIV).

In 2013, online news (Kompas.com, 2013) revealed a dispute that occurred within one of the big churches in Surabaya, which led to the police reporting on alleged acts of corruption worth 4.7 trillion Rupiah, which was suspected of the priest from one side, and reporting back as a response because the person concerned feels slandered and defamed. A Pastor was once again proven by the court two years ago to have

committed an immoral act of raping his underage congregation for approximately 16 years, so he was sentenced to 10 years as a consequence of his actions. Again and again, other Pastors also serve as school principals in the Medan area who were sentenced to 15 years in prison by Oleg for molesting six students.

(Samuel Soegiarto, 2012) is of the view that because God is love, it is love that moves and underlies everything He does, including the basis of salvation, manifested in the person of Christ, so that love becomes the power that moves and carries out the mission from God. (Samben and Christian, 2021) Stated that life in love for believers is vital because that love is the identity of a Christian believer, so loving others should be obligatory and natural. After all, God's love has flowed into the lives of those who believe.

(Maia, 2019) said that love, as evidenced by works, is the essential attitude of believers' life. (I Made, 2020) stated that precisely at this time, it was found that the negligence of a large number of Christian families in expressing love and caring for others, in this case, the children and caused by unawareness that it resulted in children later finding it difficult to show love and care for others ironically.

Based on the description of the data that has been presented, it can be seen that it is true that love is a force that moves God and his mission, as well as a Christian characteristic and identity that proves Christ's love for the world through the concrete actions of His followers for the benefit of others. However, the author sees an anomaly between the confession of faith of believers as followers of Christ. Who should, through their lives, be a blessing to others as

witnesses of Christ's love and their real lives, which become a stumbling block because they show values that are entirely contrary to the love which comes from Christ.

The author differs from Suharta's opinion that it is not only negligence in a large number of Christian families in expressing affection for children, but there is a crisis of love in all aspects of the lives of believers and Christians. It is included in the church today without any restrictions on age. Therefore, this study aims to analyze whether the growing coldness of love in the lives of some believers is a warning sign for them in these last days. Where did the love known as the hallmark of the Christian faith go?

METHODS

The purpose of this study is to analyze whether the growing coldness of love in the lives of some believers is a warning sign for them in these last days. The approach in this study is a descriptive qualitative method with data collection through various sources such as the Bible and journal literature, books, and an interview conducted on October 25, 2022, with 7 respondents who are students of the Kairos Jakarta Theological College. (Hamzah, 2020) stated that research with a qualitative approach is a procedure that produces descriptive data types such as speech and writing, as well as the actions of individuals who are observed in a context with a holistic, comprehensive perspective.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In an interview conducted on October 25, 2022, with 7 respondents who are students of the Kairos Jakarta Theological College, on question: Whether the growing coldness of love in the lives of some believers is a warning sign for them in these last days? it was found that the colder love is a warning for believers in the last days to repent because some of them are still living in

worldly lusts. They prioritize self-interest and ignore Christianity's central principle: love for God, which is reflected through love for neighbor. Because believers live for their interests and become people who love money, they become a stumbling block and shift from God's mission (Messyana Galatia et al., 2022). Some think that some people who call themselves believers have not fully experienced Christ's love, so they pretend to love so that they are quickly disappointed with others.

A Colder Love Is A Warning To Latter-Day Believers To Repent

(Yunatan Utomo, 2018) God's purpose in creating the world and everything in it was for His glory and not for humans' benefit or personal satisfaction, so art should be used to bring humans closer to God and not vice versa. In other words, whatever God created, human beings or their purpose in life has a clear purpose: namely, to exalt God, and this is very different from the goals based on egocentricity such as those obtained from Messyana, Okthaf, Anjur, and Dasman through an interview, who holds the view that the purpose of life that some believers live is not to exalt Christ, but rather for self-interest so that it becomes a stumbling block and shifts from God's mission. Some believers' lives are contrary to love, which is Christianity's core and fundamental value, so it is automatically impossible to glorify the name of Christ. Because it is natural to love oneself, but if you only love yourself and ignore others, it is not following God's commandment, which requires everyone to love each other in the same measure that is used for himself, no less and no more (Mark 12:31).

Colossians 3:23 describes the life of believers who should glorify the God they believe in through all aspects of their lives. Because the term "whatever" that begins the verse emphasizes that there is no area in the life of God's people that does not glorify Him, so everything that is done, thought must be done with the awareness that it is to please and glorify God alone (Nicolas; Manaroinsong, 2021). The believer's life that God has given should be a means of worship used to glorify God again. Because according to (Siahaya et al., 2020), worship is fundamental in the life of a believer because it is an embodiment of the believer's faith in the form of rituals and liturgies and can also be expressed in various ways. Faith is not something empty, so faith needs to be proven through visible and not abstract actions because speaking of faith is related to who is believed.

Worship has been the essence of calling for His people since the Old Testament. When God called Moses and sent him to Egypt to deliver the nation of Israel, His chosen nation, He had already stated the purpose of His deliverance, and His call was to worship Him. That is the message God conveyed to Pharaoh through the intercession of Moses (Exodus 7:16 (ESV). Faith is God's work and ability in man (2 Corinthians 3:5). Likewise, 1 Corinthians 12:3 explains that the Holy Spirit is the source of faith in Christ. Without His work, a person can't confess faith in Christ. So, love begins with God and has been proven by God through His sacrifice in Jesus Christ on the cross, not just prophetic words or writings. Still, He fulfills every prophecy (Dyulius Thomas Bilo, 2018) He has delivered as evidence of His faithfulness to His Word and His love for His beloved

humankind. Therefore God deserves the glory for the lives of those He has saved. (Sunarto, 2018) said that the life of a believer is a living offering, like the offering found when someone in the temple is present—an individual or group of people- to express their respect and faith in God.

(Zega, 2020) in quoting John, Stott also argues that by linking evangelism which is part of the vocation of a believer's life, as a *sauté* proclamation of the gospel message that results in human salvation from selfish tendencies to freedom to prioritize and glorify God. The gospel reveals the glory of God because Christ is because of the followers of Christ, who is His open letter so that their lives are included through things that are seen as trivial as food. The apostle Paul stated that whether a person eats, drinks, or does anything else, it must be done for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV).

What if you refer to Romans 12:1, which emphasizes that true worship to God is a bodily offering, which means nothing but the entire life of His chosen people as the best offering before God? Paul declared that his life was entirely for Christ. Because death was considered an advantage to glorify God's name (Philippians 1:21), Paul was willing to suffer suffering, rejection, humiliation, imprisonment, and hunger. Considering any dirt or scum of honor that he had ever carried and could be proud of, he did not dare to steal the glory of God because he realized that only one person deserved to receive praise and glory: Christ Jesus the Lord Himself. The body described in Romans 12:1 deals with the totality of human life and not just one part. Thus, all capacities and activities must be dedicated to God (Jammes, 2013).

So, (Sitompul, n.d.) stated that Paul, by saying that through his body, Christ was glorified, meant to show his commitment to life as a tool to glorify God in any situation, good or bad. The same can be observed in the life of the early church, who showed love for one another in unity by selling what was their property to help those in need prosper together for the glory of Christ's name, according to Acts 2:41-47. They are driven by the true love that burns in their hearts, with an intense longing to live a life that witnesses and glorifies the One they believe to be the Light to a world shrouded in darkness.

Jesus, but they aim to bring the name of Christ to be glorified through spreading the love of Christ that they have experienced. As their community has been born again by God's grace, believers are in God's call, where they experience a transformation. So the changes in their lives must be focused on the glory of God because the renewal has implications for the mission entrusted to them during the world as the main goal (Dyulius, 2018). So, it can be seen that there is a gap or distance and difference between the goals and motivations of the early church in the past and believers today where the early church dedicated and devoted their whole life not just to hold on to faith in Christ fully.

On the other hand, some believers today think and act more individually with goals more directed at personal or group interests rather than thinking about and fighting for common interests, as stated by Yosia, Messyana, Dasman, and Suyanto through interviews: believers love themselves. They become men of money, so it is impossible to glorify the name of Christ, but it must be a stumbling block to Christianity. It shows the face of Christianity, which is

experiencing a crisis of love. It becomes very ironic because Christianity and Christ are identified with love from time to time, and Christianity without love is not Christianity.

God's mission through the church and believers is the spread of the gospel, which is nothing but a message of love for others and the world so that God's call is closely related to the notice of love, which will ultimately bring glory to His name as recorded in John 15:8 (NIV). What if the Father is glorified when believers spread the message of love and fruitfulness for the Kingdom of God? Intending to offer the best sacrifice or gift for the person who wants to please must be based on accurate knowledge of what can please the person. If the person is unique, then what is offered will certainly not be arbitrary or careless because someone loved is treated special too. Thus the life of a believer should be provided as the best sacrifice for the God who is loved and who has previously given all the best for those who should not be worthy because of sin. So the knowledge of God's will to be glorified should be the primary concern of His people.

Paul, through Romans 12:2, says that the value of a believer's life must be utterly different from the value held by those who do not believe in Christ. And it relates to the status and commitment to dedicate life to the full for the glory of God found in Romans 12:1. Looking at the results of the interview, the Word of God conveyed by Paul is different from what has been obtained from the statements of Suyanto, Andi, and Farel who are of the view that believers have been exposed to a hedonistic lifestyle and ambition to pursue extreme popularity in the world of church ministry, seeking the fulfillment

of their desires. Lust of the flesh, harming others, being an instrument to money, quickly disappointed. All of these values are values used by the world to get what it wants to achieve, justifying all means regardless of whether those around them become victims or not. So (Dwiraharjo Susanto, 2018) said that all believers who have experienced justification are actually individuals who have left the world, so they have also left their old lives to live in renewal with the courage to stay away from worldly lifestyles.

Peter reminded those who were with Christ that God's will is for His people to do good because the life and freedom that God has given them to enslave them, so they should not be misused by doing what is evil in His sight (1 Peter 2:15- 16 (TB)). In other words, there is an important message to remind the difference between those who are already in Christ and those who are still outside the faith. So that Peter is reminded of how important it is for believers to live amid the world but must still realize that they are not from the world and, therefore, must appear different from those who are worldly. However, according to (Sumiwi, 2019), there are God's servants who make demands for facilities to carry out activities related to worship. Such as demanding certain car brands, asking to be treated specifically, and daring to give tariffs for services to be carried out.

On the other hand, according to (Sunarto, 2018), related to progress in science, there are excesses that lousy human behavior, including believers, can cause problems for the church and society, as well as for the state. The problem is that the values produced are often contrary to the value of love as they should be because love does not stop at merely knowing what needs to be

done and how to do it according to God's will and commands. Still, love acts and realizes what has been done—known about the truth because human behavior that develops is related to the pattern of thought, which is the result of the formation of a philosophy of life-based on the ideology that is believed.

So, love requires believers to sacrifice for the sake of others and emphasizes the priority of serving over being served, as Christ himself expressed who stated that he was present in the world to serve and even offered his life for everyone, not to be served (Matthew 10:28) . He even revealed that it is happier if a believer prioritizes giving rather than always wanting to receive something (Acts 20:35). This is agreed upon by (Edwin G., 2021) which states that believers as representatives of Christ have the responsibility to incarnate God's grace in the world through love by prioritizing the interests of others above their interests because love rejects adultery, murder, theft, desire for belonging to each other.

It is an anomaly and even ironic when someone who claims to be a believer in Christ Jesus lives no different from the values of this world. Because their status and identity have been renewed, their mindset and actions should also become new and in line with the new status attached. As with the status of believers as the bride of Christ, believers should act according to the righteousness of Him who has adopted them as His lovers. (Takaliuang, 2013) cites the results of a survey obtained by The Barna Group that slowly Evangelical Christians seem to have the desire to follow a materialistic hedon lifestyle centered on self-interest and behave immorally in sexual matters like the world in general. Those

are the very tempting, but misleading offers of the world called the desires of the flesh and are automatically hostile to the desires of the Spirit.

(Kristianto, 2020) conveyed that related to services at the White Cross Orphanage in Salatiga, the role of nurturing children (including non-Christian children) is carried out because of the basis of "KASIH" as the foundation that every believer should have in life that is lived daily as a form of service. So (Bilo, 2018) views that love is the highest enemy of selfishness, so it rejects the search for personal gain, rejects the search for praise, and the search for human honor, especially the search for personal gain. All of these values are upheld and expected and pursued by the world so that the children of Light should hold different values. So (Sumiwi, 2018) conveys that believers in the life they live do not function as Light or salt amid the world but are carried away in the flow of the system built by the world.

God's Word reminds every believer of his status as a holy person, which intends to emphasize the status of people who have been set apart, separated, and given the honor of being part of the calling and divine plan (Hebrews 3:1). And to show the difference between the righteous and the unrighteous—wicked, between darkness and Light. Because exalted status cannot be separated from the obligation of the people's loyalty to God and His commandments as Jesus has exemplified His faithfulness to His Father, and Moses has also proven his loyalty to the house of God who speaks His project (Hebrews 3:1-2). So fidelity is a quality closely related to faith and to whom one believes or believes, for from it arises the basis of pure worship of God as

the Sole Owner of the lives of those who have been reconciled to Him in Christ.

However, what if the believer becomes a salt that is tasteless so that it does not function according to the purpose that God has set? Just as if a light bulb was bought but couldn't light up to illuminate a room and the people in it, what's the use? As Matthew 5:13 (NIV) says, just throw it away because it's useless. (Sine Hendrick; Nainggolan, 2021) say that every Christian must change so that he is different from the world, and vice versa must be conformed to the personal image of Jesus through moral and ethical changes, mental and spiritual, and motivational.

Concerning the responses of Suyanto et al. in interviews stating that believers' pursuit of the fulfillment of fleshly desires is evidence that believers hold worldly values that are contrary to their status. Romans 8:5-8 (NKJV) emphasizes that those who live according to the desires of the flesh are filled with thoughts that are also of the flesh so that they are hostile and contrary to God and His will, thus being different from those who the Spirit leads as new creations. , and live in the desires of the Spirit and submit to the rules and commands of God who live according to the Spirit because they have thoughts that come from it. Paribas is of the view that there is fake love, so (Elfrida Siringoringo, 2019), in quoting Gleason argues that the life of a believer who has undergone continuous changes, if fully surrendered. Faith, without pretending, will produce the fruit of the Spirit because pretending sham is a deception of the person who does it.

There is an absolute truth between the difference between a converted person or a believer and a person who has not experienced

the same grace of God. This difference is contained in the changes experienced by the mind. So, in contrast to the world, there is clarity about the purpose of the believer's life in this world. The Bible confirms that humans are present in this world to fulfill God's purpose because the world does not know the direction and purpose of life; it is not surprising if people who do not believe in life are centered on their person, as Anjur said. For this reason, believers must realize their status as servants who must experience a change from their previous way of life when they were not yet in the truth, namely a renewal of mind as conveyed by (Kusnandar, 2018).

Through renewal, truly free believers will live in different values with the world because through a revival of mindset, they know what God's will is for their lives, those around them, and this world as a whole. They know what is good in God's sight so that they will surely avoid what is evil in His sight. They know what is pleasing in God's view so that they will strive and desire to please Him; they also know what is perfect in God's sight so that they will live according to the standard that is God's benchmark: namely in holding fast to the value of faith and holiness as children who come from God should live. According to 2 Timothy 3:17 (NIV), everyone who belongs to God is prepared to do good works according to God's commands and wills. Thus, the transformed mind must be the basis upon which every believer acts according to God's truth. Because it is the truth that a person knows that liberates his person from life and goals that are outside of God's plan. There is a rejection of actions that are not useful or useless because there is an understanding of

God's will and not limited to a compulsion (Sumiwi, 2018). But living in the truth precisely because his heart has experienced enlightenment status, the encouragement of awareness because it has been justified (Sunarto, 2018).

Messyana said that there was disappointment with one another among the believers, so their love grew cold. Disappointment is human and can be experienced by anyone. Still, suppose blow causes his love not to be adequately manifested. In that case, it indicates that the disappointment is contrary to the value of love forgiving, not harboring faults but covering up the faults of others. Because love always gives and does not demand, love sacrifices and does not sacrifice others. He has 1001 reasons to be disappointed, but He chooses to forgive. Still, He has the right to take revenge, but He chooses to still love, He has the right to cancel His crucifixion but He chooses to keep His task complete so that His love proven and His difference has been seen in the world to this day. Christ was persecuted, slandered, spat upon, and tortured to the cross, but he has maintained his distinction from the world to the end, thus setting an example for all believers.

Thus, the status of believers who are inherent as followers of Christ and who should live based on the value of love, as well as the renewal of reason because they have become new creations, can be questioned because the value shown by them is similar to and even the same as the value of their lives that have not been revealed. In Christ, and that is a matter of concern to Christianity. So, 1 John 3:18 (NIV) encourages believers to show love with righteous deeds and

not just with sweet words that come out of their mouths.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research obtained, it can be concluded that the colder love is a warning for believers in the last days to repent because some still live in worldly desires that prioritize their interests and ignore the central principles contained in Christianity. Namely, love for God, which is reflected through love for neighbor. There are two causes of the crisis of love in the lives of some followers of Christ today, namely: First, the purpose of life that some followers of Christ live is not to exalt Christ but rather for self-interest so that it becomes a stumbling block and shifts from God's mission. Second, the value of the life that some followers of Christ live is no different from the value of the life of the world's people (outside of Christianity). Therefore, it is necessary to realize the awareness of believers as God's people who have been called to be witnesses of Christ, to return to the divine purpose in living a new life according to the status of truth as saints who have been given by God, by living based on the value of love and not by standards world.

Offering life to God and glorifying His name is the right and proper response to The love that everyone in Christ Jesus has received. The value of the Kingdom of God must be seen through the daily lives and behavior of God's People so that Christ's love shines and shines, illuminating a world full of darkness. Without love, Christianity is meaningless, and its relevance must be questioned. Therefore, the change in the Christian life is a process of sanctification that is not instant but gradual and continuous to achieve the likeness of Christ because, in the life that is lived, humans tend to be challenged to live based on the desires and demands of a world ruled by sin.

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