

Love always protects. v.7

See service sheet online at www.knbc.org

Welcome and Opening Scripture

Hymn: MP 481 Name of all majesty

Bible Reading: Isaiah 61

Prayer of adoration and praise.

Notices

Main reading: 1 Cor 13:1-7 (p.1153)

Hymn: O Great God (Bob Kauflin) on screen

Sermon Love always protects.

Hymn MP 624 Take my life and let it be (St Bees)

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [21_06_27.mp3](#).



v.7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Welcome and pray

“Open your word to our hearts and our hearts to your word” Amen

Like to watch the latest films? There's a new film out it – it is the film of a life – your life. Like to watch it? Everything is there – nothing is missing.

How would you feel? Every act shown, and every thought exposed, it's there on the big screen, everything – If that was me I would feel dreadful, I would feel like hiding.

You would likely think who has done such a thing. How they must hate me to do that. Quite. No kind and loving person would ever do it. They would do the opposite. This is what we are talking about this morning.

v7 Love **always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres**. It's the last sentence, we are on the home straight. Today it's love **always protects**. **Love always protects** is often translated **love always bears**

It is a one-word focus today. We will come to the ‘**always**’ later.

Love always protects –

It could be to protect a person, protect a character or protect a reputation.

And yes we must protect another's reputation when it is attacked.

We should stand in front of other to deflect the arrows

We should all keep an eye over and guard each other's property. If your neighbour leaves something out, take it in, keep it safe.

■ There have been several times I have found a key left in the front door So what is the word here translated ‘**protects**’?, and how does the choice of this word help us understand what love is?

It appears 4x in Bible. The AV translate it forbear 2, bear 1, - or suffer 1. And so to be loving will require that I inconvenience myself to protect another.

The word is *στέγω* **stego** and comes from *στέγη* **stegē** *steg'-ay* based on and a strengthening of **tegōs** which means the "thatch" or "deck" of a building and is always translated ‘roof’.

And what is the function of a deck, thatch or roof over a house? To protect yes - and cover. So to protect or preserve a person's property or character means to smother, suppress whatever is bad or wrong. To cover over...

Live in an old house and you may well hang the pictures so as to cover over a hole or crack or mark on the wall. We won't mention make-up!

Any cover protects and preserves. So with the wrong things we say and do.

If something bad is said so you cover it over with silence, - and move the conversation on. It is the malicious mind and heart that goes back to highlight the matter by repeating it and drawing attention to it. Love seeks to hide sin, as you would if you were out walking and see a person drunk, or compromised, or arguing, so we conceal the errors and faults of others.

Remember the wise words of proverbs 17: **He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.** Pr 17:9

This is not what those in the world around tend to do. If there is a fight it is a reason to stop and watch, not to help - but to watch.

- In the city centre the other day two young men were arrested and stood hand cuffed to Policemen. A little crowd formed - watching and waiting. Everyone wanted to know, to see, hoping for some action.

A street fight, a street scene, a bad car accident. The reporter comes so that in case you couldn't be there in person you can catch up on the news, in the papers, on Tick Tok and social media.

Holding our leaders to account is not the same as the relentless desire to expose the faults and failings of others. Journalists who do this will never be out of business. Yes that is the unloving way the world works.

The world loves to expose

It is a consequence of sin. The moment sin came into this world Adam and Eve hid from God, why? because they felt exposed so they made coverings for themselves to conceal their nakedness. Then God made a garments to cloth them. God's way is to cover over and hide. Sinful man wants to see.

"Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backwards and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. Ham it says 'saw' the word is to 'gaze' gaze upon.

So when Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." Ge 9:20-25

That is what evil does, this is what an evil-doer does, gazes, stares, gloats at another person's indiscretions, failings and miseries. It enjoys them, it makes much of them. it magnifies them - and tells others

- Some time ago a neighbour was having a fire at the back, it was barely alight so he took a can of petrol and poured some on. The fire flared up and was quickly ablaze. This is what sin does it inflames x2 sin further.

In this case there was a 'Whoosh', we heard a 'whoosh', the flame had gone back up the petrol as it was poured from the can. The man was shocked, the fire leaped towards him. Watch out if you play with sin and evil it will soon come back to catch you.

We are in a fault finding age.

- Remember I quoted from Rev Matt Richard, who saw how so many people are watching every aspect of society and listening intensely to the news and social media channels. Every conversation, every action and every single encounter is being examined and exposed. They are always scanning everything and everyone in society looking to accuse. These people are seeking to find fault in anyone, so when someone slips up, does something unjust, or violates a social taboo, well... there's no mercy and certainly no such thing as forgiveness.
- It is the devil's game. It is wickedness at its best - or worst. The devil hates and despises the forgiveness of sins. The devil hates reconciliation, healing, restoration, and mercy. This game promotes a loveless world without mercy and a without forgiveness. That is what the world does, rather than forgive sin and evil - it makes much of it.

✚ **It is not love but hate, it angers God and results in misery and division.**

In South Africa the only route out of their divided and violent society was through public forgiveness. Through the forming of a committee the atrocities committed were covered over. Not covered up - but covered over - with the declaration of forgiveness for the perpetrators.

✚ **God's way is to cover over, to smother sin and thus conceal it – forever!**

Do you realise that this is exactly what the Lord did in the cross for you?

Christ shed his blood to cover over sin.

He did that by having it exposed on himself. The cross is the public act of dealing with it, the dirty washing, it's on him, the muck is thrown and taken!

Pentecostals would say and sing about being 'covered in the blood'. A strange thought, but being covered in the blood in a real sense is what it did.

- Dunkirk beach wiped clean from all the battle scars and the dead

It's not virgin snow - but virgin sand! Christ's blood indeed makes things clean again, - like new, without a sign of anything from before.

When Jesus suffered greatly on the cross, - His shed his blood to bear away my guilt. Now my sin is covered over - and now not seen by God. Job saw that: **My offences will be sealed up in a bag; you will cover over my sin.** 14:17

God says: **I will remember your sin no more** - so I need fear NO judgment.

When God wanted to rescue the people held in slavery in Egypt he told them **"to take some of the blood of the lamb and put it on the sides and tops of the door-frames of their houses"** Ex 12:7. That blood covered them and freed from God's right judgment on all who do evil. The Bible says everyone, x2 who sins is a slave to sin and needs to be rescued, which Christ alone can do

Who here will now repent of your sin and turn to Christ? Do that and you will know that His blood has covered over all your sin. No judgment will ever now come to you.

God showed this in another way

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to give to the people to obey. They failed again & again – just like you and I. Hands up that's me.

So how can God accept me? He took the two tablets of the commandments and put them in the box. He closed the lid over the commandments and then sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice onto it. That 'lid' is called the **atonement cover** – It's called 'The Mercy seat'. – see the bulletin.

Hear what the priest did: from the altar of sacrifice— **take some of the bull's blood and sprinkle some of it on the atonement cover., that is over the Testimony—where I will meet with you.** Ex 30:6. Says the Lord

Sin is lawbreaking - and yet here with my lawbreaking covered - God will meet with me. Again in Lev 16:2 describing the Day of atonement; God says: **I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.**

When Moses entered the Tent of Meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the Testimony. And he spoke with him. Nu 7:89

GAP

It's a fundamental principle – pagan King Abimelech said to Sarah, **"I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offence against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."** Ge 20:16

He understood what redemption is all about, He paid with cash, - true redemption is paid with the blood of God's Saviour Son - Jesus Christ!

3a

Here was a man who feared leaving things undone, he was right to be fearful for God has set a Day when we will all be summoned before Christ.

The Day will come when everything will be laid bare before him.... a Day when all is revealed.

A Day when God will seek out and expose every sin.

✚ flagstones lifted, false walls torn down, every façade, every pretense, every excuse, every covering removed and your true self and sin exposed

Cain thought the ground would cover the spilt blood of his brother Abel, but the Lord God said: **"What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.** Ge 4:10

Nothing can be hidden from God. Not only does he always see – but one day in the darkroom of this world, the light will go on, The Day of exposing On that Day many will run in fear and cry out to the mountains to hide them from God's wrath. Why run? Because **Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.** Joh 3:20.

The light will be so strong that **everything exposed by the light becomes visible,** Eph 5:13

A truth perhaps in the mind of Jacob's son **Judah** when he **said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"** Ge 37:26 Yes God is watching!!

There was a time when God saw how evil man had become he wanted to wipe the world clean and sent the flood which **rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet.** Ge 7:19,20

But this time it will be the opposite.....on that Day, The Day

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare x2 before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

It will come upon the world very suddenly – **"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."** Re 16:15

Are you clothed with Christ? Have you - like a prodigal son turned towards home and been given "clean clothes"? If not, then plead with Jesus to cover you up. It is the only way.

If Christ has forgiven you and covered your sins - so should you now **forgive and cover the sin of others.**

3b

So we come to the final application

Remember the fire, when the petrol was added, flared up?

Let us be the fire blanket which covers and smothers and starves the fire.

Don't go round like an investigative journalist always probing

- Car MOT probing with a screw driver, magnet over part of the bodywork "is it metal or is it filler"?
- Don't act like you are an inspector – Like a Building inspector, or doing a building survey always trying to search out the faults.

The world likes to cover up its own sin while exposing the sin of others.

✚ **We must be the opposite - act with others as God has acted with you.**

Always - Love **always** protects could be better translated 'protects all' the word *pas* means **all** or **all things** or **every**.

The verb **protect** or **cover** is in the present tense = love covers all now.

It is active, an action – covering over or protecting is something we do.

In society, with our neighbours and those we meet

God demonstrates 'Common grace'

- Walk yesterday, country lane, how the foliage had shot up. Hardly any litter to be seen. One of the wonderful things about spring and summer is that all that ugly rubbish is covered with fresh greenery. CG, GG

What about when we meet people, as time goes on you learn what they are like and what they have done and it can be quite sickening – yes, that would be true for others should they know all about me!

When we meet someone and do not know about them that is part of common grace - we start each new interaction without knowing anything about the other person.

The skull is a covering over my evil thoughts, how gracious God is that they will never be known by anyone else - How ashamed I would be - and how sickened others would be if they know the truth inside me.

What a picture of God's Common Grace to us all.

In the fellowship

In the church we go out of our way to get to know each other well.

However, this closeness to others means we know more, we see more – and this requires more grace.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1Pe 4:8

1. Something is said, don't repeat the matter leave it, cover it.
2. A room or place is left untidy – if it is always happening it is right to gently say something in private. Otherwise you tidy it away yourself, and cover it over.
3. Something should have been done but it wasn't – you do it and by doing so you cover over this omission by someone else.
4. Someone likes to dominate a situation or conversation – don't try to do the same. Act humbly and graciously, thereby you bear with /cover over the sin.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

This is the gospel of grace worked out in our lives, bearing the sin of others is love - which in practice often means choosing to take the blame.

- As Christ carried my sins, he's the sin bearer - he calls his followers to now do the same.

This is what it means to do as Jesus commanded: **to deny self, take up your cross daily and follow Him**

✚ **Want to receive the crown? remember it's *the Cross then the Crown***

To do what another should have done, to undo what another has done wrong, to straighten out, to correct, to make up for the failings of another – all require grace.

Being a council painter and decorator must be a wonderful job, to take a dirty stained marked wall and turn it into a sheet of white. We are all painters applying grace, whether as Tim is doing painting on a protective coat, or whether grubby walls are painted to cover the marks. & re-cover.. Grace comes from the great store of grace - Christ himself. As God he will bring to you his sufficient grace for any and every situation you will face.

D. L. Moody. said: A man can no more take a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the next six months, or take sufficient air into his lungs to sustain life for a week to come. We must draw upon God's boundless stores for grace from day to day, as we need it.

O God, how beautiful the thought, How merciful the blest decree,
That grace can always be found when sought, And nought shut out my soul from thee.—*Eliza Cook*

Love protects, love bears with, love covers. – Let us **Above all, x2 love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.** 1Pe 4:8 ___END