

January 8, 2021

Love should be the easiest emotion of all, don't you think? It feels good! It's warm and fuzzy and oh so experiential! It is common to all humanity and is that elusive piece that makes everything just a little bit better. Mothers who love their children, nurture them and raise them and guide them through life's challenges; Fathers who love their families provide for them, instruct them, and help them weather the storms that shake our globe. Children that love their parents take care of them when they grow old and frail and sick. Husbands that love their wives treat them as they would their own bodies; friends that love one another support and encourage through interaction and prayer.

But we are warned that because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. (*Matthew 24:12*)

But didn't I just say love was warm? Active, living, breathing love is **WARM!** But wickedness, according to the gospel of Matthew, sucks the lifeblood out of love, and turns it – cold.

But uh ... cold doesn't even exist.  
It's true!

We use the word 'cold' as an adjective to describe something, but cold is not anything, not scientifically speaking, at least. Cold is the **absence** of heat. It isn't actually a thing. It may feel like a thing, because it creeps in with frosty fingers, and wraps around your body turning you into an icicle. But cold is actually the **absence of warmth**.

Cold cannot be transferred; only heat can be transferred. Heat has a direction, and it always flows from something with higher temperature to something with lower temperature. That is why, when warm bodies bundle up and go outside, they become cold. Despite all the insulating layers to slow down the process, the heat of our bodies automatically begins to transfer to areas of lower temperature. The longer we remain in the cold, the more of our heat transfers out of our bodies and yes ... there is an analogy here.

We need the insulating power of God's word and the supernatural power of God's love to keep from growing cold in this world of sin where selfish ambition and devotion to one's own ideas reign supreme. Love, like heat, flows from God to man because "*God is love.*" *1 John 4:16*

During this particularly cold, dark winter, let's choose to abide in the love of Jesus as he invites us to do. "*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*"  
*John 15:9-11*