

Does the Bible Say That?

"Love covers a multitude of sins..." (I Peter 4:8)

The Issue: What does it mean when the Bible says, "love covers a multitude of sins" in I Peter 4:8?

Definitions

1 Peter 4:8

- fervent *ektenes* (1618)
- covers over *kalyptei* (2572)
- multitude *plethos* (4128)

Questions

1. Who's sin are we talking about here?
2. What does it mean in this context "to cover"? Who is covering it? Is this just saying to forgive?
3. How much is a "multitude"? Are there any types of sin that wouldn't be included in that?
4. What is the role of "love" (*agape*) in this process?
5. How do we keep 'earnest' or 'fervent' in our love?

Let's look at another verse that has the same phrase to see if we can gain some additional insight: James 5:20. Here the phrase "covers a multitude of sins" is exactly the same wording as 1 Peter 4:8. However, the phrase "having brought back" (*epistrepsas*, #3929) is unique and the context is different.

1. Who's sin is being covered here, and how?
2. What is the role of prayer here?
3. What role does love play in this context in James 5:19-20? Why is love not mentioned here?

Application

How should this shape the way that you pray or interact with fellow Christians?

How do we apply this to us today? What does that look like?