

Foot in the Cement

The story is told of a professor of psychology who had no children of his own, but whenever he saw a neighbor scolding a child for some wrongdoing, he would say, "You should love your boy, not punish him."

One hot summer day, the professor was repairing his concrete driveway. Tired after several hours of work, he laid down the trowel, wiped the perspiration from his forehead, and started toward the house. Just then, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a mischievous little boy putting his foot in the fresh cement.

He rushed over, grabbed him, and was about to spank him when a neighbor leaned out his window and said, "Watch it, Professor! Don't you remember? You must love the child!"

At this, the professor yelled back furiously, "I do love him in the abstract, but not in the concrete!"



How easy it is to talk sentimentally about love as an intangible thing. But it's much more difficult to put it into practice in the trying situations of real life.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commands us to display kindness and grace, and even to pray for those who mistreat or show ill will toward us.

That is the real test of love.

--Beecher Hunter