



■ A Christian only loves

## How We Heal Our Brother\* With Consideration and Love

**B**y quiet and gentle love we approach and **heal** the being of man. **We never harp on** to someone about his weaknesses and failings. **We** speak only well of others. **While** we see their faults, **we keep silent and simply love.**



For when we behave towards a harsh and callous person as he “deserves,” we only make him worse. **When**, on the other hand, we treat him with consideration and love, we are able to make him better.

**A** Christian does not detest anyone.

**What** does he do? **He only loves.** **He** loves even his enemies.



**When** St. Stephen the Protomartyr was being stoned, he gave no thought to the physical pain, but rather how to forgive his torturers.

**That** is why he said: **“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”**

**It** is astounding to contemplate how far the love of a believer can go.

**This** is a **distinctive love**, which brings you **freedom and calmness.**

**It** enables the **Light of the Resurrection** to spring forth within you; it opens unto you spiritual horizons, causing you to participate in heavenly things while still on earth. □

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(\*) Bishop Makarios of Christoupolis, “O Lord and Master of my life...” [in Greek] (Athens: Ekdoseis “En plo,” 2016), pp. 122-123.