

Love - Part 2

I Corinthians 13

Okay - here we go. Part 2 on Love. Praise God for His love for us. In essence, through the Spirit, He has given us the ability to love others in ways we could not without His supernatural strength.

I Corinthians 13: 4-8 'Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.'

(from Grace Notes)

Love is to be the characteristic of the believer's life.

God commands believers to love everyone, even our enemies, even the most obnoxious, impossible-to-love people in our lives. The ability to love everyone in the world, even enemies, comes only as a result of Christian growth, the development of a structure in the soul which includes the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22 ff), and the development of a Relaxed Mental Attitude as a result of having no mental attitude sins toward other people.

Any Christian who is consistently growing in Christ will have a steady advance in the Christian Way of Life, along with the ability to love other people genuinely and have an honest concern for their spiritual well-being.

1) What does it mean to fully accept another's character?

(from Grace Notes)

Love is not possessive. Love does not hold exclusive control where one is allowed little or no freedom to fulfill himself apart from the one who loves him.

2) Why do people become possessive?

- An abnormal tendency to control or dominate others, generally involving the restriction of their social relationships;
- Stems from insecurities related to attachment styles. People with attachment anxieties tend to have a negative view of self and a positive view of others; leads to distrust, fear of rejection.

3) Why is love not possessive over material items?

Possessiveness can also be reflected in how I think about my possessions. *"These are my toys!"*

"...love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;..."

(from Grace Notes)

Love is not anxious to impress. Love doesn't seek to make an impression or to create an image for personal gain.

Love does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. It is not self-centered. It has the ability to change and to accept change. It is flexible. It doesn't allow, or expect, life to revolved around itself.

4) Why is it hard to accept change sometimes?

Without realizing it, often it is hard to accept change because we want what we want. To accept change means to concede my desires for an individual or a group of people.....

5) How do you create an image for yourself and what does it say?

Conversely,

6) What is it about your image you would like to change?

Remember to grow and mature in Christ, we must learn, accept shortcomings, desire to change and search and apply resolutions!

1 John 4:7 'Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. '

Love is an action =

- Who have you not fully accepted?
- Where are you possessive?
- Can you easily accept change?
- Where can you fix your image?

Friday night message: "Living Grace"

Next Tuesday - "Love Part 3"