

1 John 3 – Let us Love One Another (Part 6)

The extraordinary love of God towards mankind, and the effects of it. (1-3)

The Command to Love

(1) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us (given to us), that we should be called children of God (and so we are! Therefore, the world does not know us, (and the reason is) because it did not know Him.

REVIEW: Last week we started talking about what **God's love** is by definition. Then we turned to 1 Cor chapter 13 to see what Paul tells about this love (agape love). Paul begins by telling us that ... even if he has rhetorical ability, preaching, knowledge, mountain-moving faith, charity towards the poor, or even martyrdom... they are nothing without love.

Today we'll continue our study about the characteristics of this love (agape love) starting in verse 4.

OVERVIEW of 1 Corinthians Chapter 13

I. 1 Cor 13:1-3 Paul tells us that Biblical love needs to be a priority for Christians.

II. 1 Cor 13:4-7 Paul tells us what Biblical love is.

III. 1 Cor 13:8-13 Paul tells us that Biblical love is greater than all the spiritual gifts.

===== **BIBLICAL LOVE 1 Corinthians 13:4-7** =====

One of the first things we see is that love is described by action words. Paul is not writing about how love feels, he is writing about how it can be seen. True love is always demonstrated by action.

What does **1 John 3:18** say? _____

4a Love is patient (some translations say love is long-suffering)

Love will endure a long time. If God's love is in us, we will show longsuffering to those who annoy us and hurt us. This kind of patient love bears with offenses and is slow to repay or punish those who offend. Someone who is wronged, and who could easily avenge or retaliate, but chooses out of mercy and patience not to do so, shows patient love. Patient love is often used to describe God.

What does **2 Peter 3:9** say? _____

4b Love is kind

Love will treat others with goodness, especially those who have been ill-treated.

What does **Galatians 5:13** say? " _____

4c Love does not envy

This kind of love appreciates and rejoices when others are blessed with good things and does not allow jealous and resentment to take root. This love is pleased when others experience success.

Envy is one of the least productive and most damaging of all sins. It accomplishes nothing, except to hurt. Love keeps its distance from envy, and does not resent it when someone else is promoted or receives recognition.

Is envy a “small” sin? Look what happened because of envy in these Scripture references:

Gen 4:3-8 _____

Gen 37:11,28 _____

Matt 27:18. _____

4d Love does not parade itself (some translations may say boast)

Love in action can work anonymously. It does not have to have the limelight or the attention to do a good job, or to be satisfied with the result. Love gives because it loves to give, not out of the sense of praise it can have from showing itself off. Love does not brag or seek to make others jealous (look at me and what I've done). Those who have this love, do not have an inflated sense of importance or consider themselves to be superior to others. This kind of love does not exalt itself over others. This love recognizes that our achievements are not based on our own abilities or worthiness.

What does **2 Cor 3:5** say? _____

Define sufficient _____

4e Love is not proud (some translations say ‘puffed up’ or ‘arrogant’).

This kind of love calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. This love is not overly self-confident or insubordinate to God and others. It is **not** characterized by a sense of self-importance or arrogance. To be ‘puffed up’ is to be self-focused. It speaks of someone who has a “big head.” Love doesn’t get its head swelled; it focuses on the needs of others. Among Christians, the worst pride is *spiritual* pride. Pride of face is obnoxious, pride of race is vulgar, but the worst pride is pride of grace!

Love that is not proud shows a great deal of humility:

Humility is the quality of being humble and means putting the needs of another person before your own, and thinking of others before yourself. It also means not drawing attention to yourself, and it can mean acknowledging that you are not always right.

There are many examples of humility. A few are listed below:

- **Mother Teresa** was a teacher in a school in India, and all her needs were met in the convent where she lived. However, she chose to give up her life in that convent in order to live with the poorest of the poor on the streets of Calcutta, taking care of the very sick and dying. She took care of people with whom no one else wanted to bother.
- A woman started a non-profit when was 22, and has been given numerous awards for her work over the last 20 years. Even though she is in charge of a lot of people, her humility is evident in that she never draws attention to herself, is not afraid to dig in and do the hard work of serving others, and never boasts of her accomplishments.
- Hugh Jackman just turned in an incredible performance as Jean Valjean in the movie version of the musical *Les Miserables*. While many actors and celebrities are arrogant, Hugh's humility shines through in interviews, as he speaks of how grateful he is for this opportunity, how hard the role was, and how great it was to work with amazing people.

- Being a parent can be a very humble job, wiping noses, changing diapers, and meeting a child's every need for years.
- Letting someone ahead of you in line when you see they are in a hurry is an act of humility.
- Cleaning the bathroom of your office, even though you own the company, is an example of humility.
- The star of the basketball team could score a tremendous amount of baskets in any given game, but instead he takes lots of opportunities to pass the ball to his teammates so they can try to score as well. This shows the athlete's humility.
- The owner of a Fortune 500 company can spend her money and time however she likes. Every week she volunteers at a local soup kitchen, gives a great deal of her money to charities that are important her, and gets to know the people who work at, and are served by, those organizations.
- A [valedictorian](#) who credits her success to her parents and her teachers shows humility.
- An athlete who credits his success to his teammates, even though he has great skill, shows humility.
- When a gifted photographer receives compliments on his work, he says thank you, but always remarks about how fun it was to take pictures for the people in the photos and how they made it easy to take great pictures.

CONSIDER: What did you learn about today's lesson? What made an impression on you?

RESPOND: Please take a moment to reflect on this lesson and how we can show others that God's love is in us. Has someone shown you God's love this past week? If you're open to sharing => click on the web link (see screen shot on Ladies of Grace web page below). I long to hear from you!

FALL 2020

Our Fall session on 1 John Chapter 3 "Love One Another" will end on December 8. Since we are not meeting in-person at this time, new study lessons will be posted each Tuesday morning on this page that you can read at your own pace. If you have any questions or comments, please email the Ladies of Grace coordinator by [clicking here](#).

An encouraging story to share: I listen to Air-One radio station quite often and this week a thought was repeated several times and stuck in my head. The thought goes something like this ...

If you thank God for something that you receive ... that's gratitude but if you thank God for something you have yet to receive ... that's faith.

So an opportunity for me to be thankful for something not yet received came last Wednesday and without hesitation ... I prayed a pray of thanksgiving as if it were a done deal. AND I shared with family members that I had prayed in that manner. A few days later ... the blessing came to pass. I don't remember ever being so confident in a prayer for something not yet received.

I would like to encourage each of you reading this lesson today to look for opportunities to ... *pray in faith for something as if you've already received it.*

PRAYER - God, I have declared my love for You countless times, but I have not equally demonstrated the authenticity of that love by sensitively, compassionately and selflessly loving those around me in ways that they would recognize as true love. Forgive my neglect, and help me to allow the kind of love You have for me to be demonstrated toward others. May I be living proof of Your love throughout this day. AMEN

<http://raynoah.com/2018/12/03/god-i-want-to-love-like-jesus-loved/>
<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/1-corinthians-13/>
<https://www.learnreligions.com/love-is-patient-love-is-kind-bible-verse-701342>