



“Triumphant In Christ, Victorious In Life”

Sermon Series: “Love – Leadership – Life”

Sermon: “**LOVE In Action**” – 3/4/2018

**1 Corinthians 13:1 - 13 (NKJV)** – *“1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 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. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*

- **LOVE AS DESCRIBED SO BEAUTIFULLY AND EXCELLENTLY IN THIS LOVE CHAPTER IS MORE THAN A WORD:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - In verses one through three, Paul described the **ATMOSPHERE** of LOVE.
    - Paul, by the Holy Spirit, did this by putting the four ministry gifts in the context of love, which painted a picture of the atmosphere in which life is to be conducted, and atmosphere that will change everything.
    - Real love changes the way you think, it changes the way you talk, it changes the way you act, it changes the way you believe. Love changes everything.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Beginning in verse four, Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, described the **ATTITUDE** of LOVE.
    - When he talks about LONGSUFFERING and KINDNESS, he provides us with what we need to walk through the tense, tough and troubling times that we'll encounter in life.
    - He gives us the appropriate self-management skills for controlling our emotions so that we can *walk in love* and *walk in forgiveness* with other people during difficult moments.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Starting in verse five, Paul, talks about the **ACTIVITY** of LOVE.
    - He mentions rudeness, self-seeking, and other qualities. When he does this, he's describing the things that *love does* and the things that *love does not* do. He provides these descriptions to help us to picture the proper response of love.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> - Then, beginning in verse six, Paul, by the Holy Spirit, talks about the **APPLICATION** of LOVE, which is where he says love does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endure all things.
    - In these verses, we'll learn what it looks like when we apply love.

#### **LOVE IN ACTION**

- Friends, we've discussed and discovered lots of things about the Love of God over the past several weeks, and we've barely scratched the surface.
- Love, Agape, the God-kind, the God-quality of love will take us an eternity to grasp. In

- other words, the truth of the Love of God is an ever-learning process.
- Let's briefly look at some LOVE in action Scriptures remember, love is not a noun but a verb, agape is an action and not just a static or status thing:
  - What Does LOVE (THE LOVE OF GOD) in our heart motivate us to do:
    - 1) **PARDON** Others:
      - **Matthew 5:44 (NKJV)** – *“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you”*
      - **Mark 11:25 (NKJV)** – *“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”*
      - **Colossians 3:13 (NLT)** – *“Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*
      - Friends, it is imperative that we each increase and abound in LOVE. Abound in our Love Walk and Forgiveness Walk.
      - As Christian believers and Christ-followers, we should develop an intentional readiness, a genuine willingness and a quickness to be: (1) **QUICK** to forgive (5-second rule, instant forgiveness and unconditional love) (2) **QUICK** to repent (when we've messed up, missed it or made mistakes) and (3) **QUICK** to believe (God, God's Word, the finish works of Jesus and the best of others).
    - 2) **PROVIDES** for the Needs for Others: **Read 1 John 3:11 – 17; 1 John 4:7 – 12**
      - Examples:
        - (1) **Prayer**: (True love prays! True love prays and believes God for the best of the person loved without giving up): **Read Philippians 1:9 – 11; Ephesians 3:14 - 20**
        - (2) **Provision**: (Chooses to freely give and freely help and support when it is available to; Truly looks to meet the needs of others by God's help and grace; Really good at “One Anothering”). **1 John 3:17 – 18 (Amplified)** – *“<sup>17</sup> But whoever has the world's goods (adequate resources), and sees his brother in need, but has no compassion for him, how does the love of God live in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children (believers, dear ones), let us not love [merely in theory] with word or with tongue [giving lip service to compassion], but in action and in truth [in practice and in sincerity, because practical acts of love are more than words].”*
          - *A self-centered life is its own punishment. Expecting and demanding from others only results in stress, disappointment, and despair. Captured by the reality of the love of God we are freed to focus on others rather than on ourselves. Focusing on others is where we find the joy of deep and abiding friendships. God designed it so that right relationship are the surest way to find fulfillment and freedom.*
        - (3) **Polite**: (Respectfully regarding others; Reverently honoring others with true humility; Responsive to others with kindness, compassion and care) **1 Peter 3:8 [Amplified]** – *“<sup>8</sup> Finally, all [of you] should be of one and the same mind (united in spirit), sympathizing [with one another], loving [each other] as brethren [of one household], compassionate and courteous (tenderhearted and humble).”*
          - **Ephesians 4:32 (Amp)** – *“Be kind and helpful to one*

*another, tender-hearted [compassionate, understanding], forgiving one another [readily and freely], just as God in Christ also forgave you."*

- (3) **Preference / Precedence**: (Others first vs Me first; From our "Me-ness" to a "We-ness"; From doing what I want, to *giving* and *doing* what others need; From being the Bragging, Big, Bad-guy to being the Godly, Giving, Good-guy): **Romans 12:9 – 10 [Amplified]** – *"<sup>9</sup>[Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good.<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another."*
- 3) **PROPELS** our Marriage and Family Life:
  - When love reigns in your marriage, you'll show it in a few specifics ways.
  - It's important to not that love requires your entire being. **LOVE is a daily choice**. You have to *refuse* selfishness, self-centeredness, strife and hatred and you have to *choose* to love and *choose* to forgive.
  - **Read highlighted sections of the Love and Marriage book by Dr. Myles Monroe.**
  - **3 DIMENSIONS OF NEEDS:**
    - *Spiritual Needs*: God gives and provides for our spiritual needs via our relationship with Him; His Word; His Holy Spirit; and Supernatural Relationships (Ministers, Faith Friends, Protégé's)
    - *Emotional Needs*: (Marriage, Family and Friendships)
    - *Physical Needs*: (Water, Food, Clothes, Shelter, etc.)
  - **REMEMBER, LOVE IS MAKING A COMMITMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ANOTHER PERSON.**

#### FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY

**1 Corinthians 13:11 (Amplified)** – *"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things."*

- Most people associate – **"For Mature Audiences Only"** – with the content of a movie. We're accustomed to seeing this phrase on a theater or a TV screen, and we recognize that it's providing a warning about the themes in a particular film or program.
- A word like mature, however, suggests different things to different people. We all interpret phrases and concepts differently.
- In verse eleven of *1 Corinthians 13*, the Apostle Paul, by the Holy Spirit begins revealing some insights into the biblical view of spiritual maturity. So, our first task is to define what spiritual maturity is not. Then we can begin examining what it is.
- **3 Common Misconceptions about spiritual maturity**. Christians frequently confuse maturity with:
  - The Passing of **TIME**
  - **TALENT**
  - **KNOWLEDGE**
- Both Christians and church leaders sometimes think spiritual maturity is primarily just a matter of regular church attendance. According to this logic, anyone who regularly attends Sunday services, prayer meetings, and Bible studies is a mature believer. All you have to do is show up.
- The writer of Hebrews clearly takes issue with this notion. **Hebrews 5:12 – 13 (NKJV)** – *"<sup>12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup>For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe."*
- These verses tell us that growing **OLD** and growing **UP** are not the same. When it comes to maturity, let's not confuse growing up with showing up. Maturity involves more

- than marking the passage of time.
- Spiritual maturity also involves more than talent. *Talented people are not exempt from messing up.* Being gifted and talented is the same as being mature.
  - It's also easy to be impressed by knowledge. *Knowing truth and living truth, however, are separate matters.* The truth that someone has in his or her head needs to be lived out. Information does not equal transformation. Knowledge and maturity are not the same.
  - **Traits of Spiritual Maturity:**
    - (1) Commitment to seeing things through (**Galatians 6:9 NLT** – *“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”*)
      - Here, God is encouraging us to persist, to persevere, to not give up.
      - Perseverance is a vital aspect of maturity; if we aren’t committed to continue, we won’t attain maturity.
      - Marriage and family offers some great illustrations about this type of commitment.
    - (2) Control of the tongue. (**James 3:2 NLT** – *“Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.”*)
      - Our tongues can cause life or they can be a source of a cruel death.
      - There are no inconsequential words. Words matter! Words make us well and make and keep us sick. Words make your marriage grow and flourish or tear it down. Words make your children want to come to church or stay home or play hooky in school.
    - (3) Not complaining (**Philippians 2:14 NLT** – *“Do everything without complaining and arguing.”*)
      - It would take a lot of effort to mess up what that verse is saying. It’s clearly telling us not to live as chronic complainers. Christians shouldn’t be the ones that are always in the complaint box.
    - (4) Patience
      - Many people in our society find it difficult to wait. Everyone is in a hurry.
      - Nobody wants to wait for anything, including waiting in line in stores.
      - We can keep looking at the clock or looking to the Lord.
    - (5) Continued growth
      - Maturity is not an easy path. But it does have its reward.
      - Maturing means that you have stopped living entirely for yourself. It means that you’re creating a life that outlives you.