



"Triumphant In Christ, Victorious In Life"

Sermon Series: "Love – Leadership – Life" (Sermon Handout)

Sermon: "LOVE - The Greatest Thing In the World – Part 2" – 2/11/2018

1 Corinthians 13:1 - 13 (NKJV)

The LOVE of GOD = **Agape** = means "love: esp. charity; the love of God for man and of man for God." The *unconditional, unfailing* and *unlimited* love of God!

- **Scriptural Descriptions of the Love of God (Agape): Read 1 John 3:11 – 23**
 - We take from these verses that The Love of God is _____ and not **NATURAL HUMAN** Love – which is **SELFISH**.
- **Read 1 John 4:7 – 12:** We learn from these verses that the Love of God is a _____ and not a **FEELING**. We choose to LOVE and we choose to FORGIVE.
- **John 13:34 – 35 (NKJV); John 15:9 – 13, 17 (NKJV)**
- We learn three more important aspects of the Love of God:
 - LOVE is _____. It is an intense, eager yearning to do good.
 - LOVE is a _____. It is the commitment to meet the needs of another without asking or expecting anything in return.
 - LOVE is _____. It is anticipating the needs of another and meeting them.

LOVE: HELPING YOU CONTROL YOUR THERMOSTAT

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NKJV) – "Love suffers long..."

- **LOVE, BY DEFINITION, SUFFERS LONG.** The concept of longsuffering comes from two Greek words that mean *EVEN TEMPERATURE*. These words refer to something that takes a long time to boil and they form the foundation for our word _____.
- _____ is a critical component in dealing with the everyday practical matters of living with others, leading others and loving others.
- LOVE IS BEYOND _____! THE LOVE OF GOD IS UNDEFEATABLE!
 - Some of the biggest things love conquers is: (1) _____ (2) **BIGOTRY** (3) **RACISM** (4) **STRIFE** and (5) **DISUNITY** and **DISCORD** (Johnny Johnson's Ex)
 - Racism / Prejudice = is the magnification of differences through _____.
 - The grace of God by and through the love of God _____ differences and diversity.

LOVE: EVEN AS CHRIST LOVED US

Ephesians 4:26 (NKJV) – "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath..."

- There is a lot of negativity in our world today. People are _____, IMPATIENT and RUDE.
 - Say one wrong word and they fly off the handle. Research shows that there's a new phenomenon called "**INTERNET** _____."
 - They've found that **ANGER IS THE MOST VIRAL EMOTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA**.
- Our life should be controlled by God's Word and the by the power of the Holy Spirit. They give us the ability to dominate and control our _____.

- We all should live _____ and **CONSTRAINED** by the LOVE of CHRIST to regularly practice this Biblical “Sunset Rule”. Because, when we go more than a day with *Unresolved Anger* we either become **HOMICIDAL** or **SUICIDAL**.
- THE DEAL IS THAT EVIL EMOTIONS ARE A SIN AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.
- **Proverbs 29:11 (NLT); Proverbs 29:22 (NLT); James 1:19 (NKJV)**
- We must remember this truth: **MURDER BEGINS IN THE _____**. Read **Matthew 5:20 – 24 (KJV)**

LOVE: EVEN AS CHRIST LOVED US

- Read **Ephesians 4:31 – 32 (KJV); Ephesians 4:31 – 32 (CEV)** – “³¹Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don’t yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. ³²Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.” Be kind; be nice. The opposite of being kind is being _____.
- God is Love. LOVE IS **KIND**. EVERY _____ AND EVERY ACTION (ACT) THAT MAKES SOMEONE FEEL _____ IS EVIL.
- When people HURT you two things occur:
 - (1) The **ACTION (ACT)** – Forgiveness deals with the _____. **Matthew 5:44 (NKJV); Mark 11:25 (NKJV)**
 - Walking in Forgiveness is a part of Walking in Love. Forgiveness should be practiced: (1) _____ (2) **PROACTIVELY** and (3) **REACTIVELY**.
 - “A lot of people think you can wait until tomorrow [to forgive someone]. You can’t; you don’t have the time. That thing [anger, hatred] starts growing so fast. If that happens, you might not be able to control it.” - James E. “Johnny” Johnson
 - Forgiveness Process in Dealing the Trespass of Others: (1) Let it drop (2) Leave it (3) Let it go (4) Give up the resentment.
 - (2) The **ATTITUDE** – We have to do something to deal with _____.
 - The Bible says whatever we _____ we take away the ability for it to **HURT** you. **1 Peter 3:9 (NLT)** – “Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF KINDNESS

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NKJV) – “Love suffers long and is **kind**...” Paul doesn’t stop with his description of longsuffering in 1 Corinthians 13:4 but proceeds to introduce _____, the 2nd of the fifteen qualities of the LOVE of God.

- During this strategic description, he suggests that **LONGSUFFERING** is paired closely with _____. When he writes this, he immediately blows our cover.
- It helps to think about the connection between LONGSUFFERING and KINDNESS in this way: LONGSUFFERING lives inside of us; KINDNESS is displayed on the outside.
 - LONGSUFFERING is your attitude; KINDNESS is reflected in your actions.
 - LONGSUFFERING is what God sees; KINDNESS is what others see.