

“Dare to Care”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 18th

Ps. 16:11 *“Thou wilt show me the path of life”* Finding this path requires:

- A reliable (accurate) map. (Mt. 22:29)
- A fixed point of reference. (Mt 22:34-40)

1 Tim. 1:5 *“the end (telos: goal!) of the commandment is charity”* (Agape: Love)

The three types of “love” God has blessed us with include:

- **Physical:** (Eros: erotic) Pr 5:18,19
- **Emotional:** (Philos: Affection) Ti 2:3,4
- **Spiritual:** (Agape: Charity) 1 Cor 13:13 *“but the greatest of these is charity”*

Physical and Emotional love are conditional based on the “performance” of others and the “quality” of our relationship with them. Spiritual love is conditional, not on our relationship with others, but on our relationship with God! Eros and Philos are based on our strength or emotions. Agape is based on God’s! Gal. 5:22

Hebrews 1:3 describes Jesus as: *“The brightness of His (God’s) glory, and the express image of his person”*

Charaktēr: an exact copy or representation! In Mt. 11:29 Jesus said *“learn of me!”*

When we learn of love, we learn of Him! 1 Jn 4:7-8 *“for love is of God... and God is love.”*

1. We’re Created to Care (Love) but “caring” takes Courage!

A. Love Involves “relationships.” (It’s “Risky”!)

- 1) God is relational! 1 Jn. 5:7
- 2) We’re designed in God’s image. “let us make man in our image” Gen. 1:26
 - a) A Body to relate to (experience) Creation.
 - b) A Soul to relate to (experience) each other.
 - c) A Spirit to relate to (experience) God!
- 3) We’re incomplete without relationships! Gen 2:18 *“It is not good that the man should be alone”*

B. Love “Reaches” (It’s Vulnerable)

- 1) We must Reach out to Relate!
 - a) Physically: Open up our 5 senses.
 - b) Emotionally: Open up our “hearts, minds”
 - c) Spiritually: Open up our spiritual “senses”.
- 2) Whenever we reach out, (open up) we risk “rejection”.

Love involves relationships and relationships involves Reaching and Risk!

2. Risk requires Faith! 1 Cor 13:13 *“Now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity”*

A. Faith is Foundational to love! Heb. 11:1 *“Faith the substance of things hoped for.”* (hypos’tasis: footing)

- 1) Every foundation requires a footing.
 - a) The foundation is only as solid (secure) as the footing it rests on!
- 2) Every relationship is built on the “footing” of faith! (But in who/what?)

3) Contrast wise and foolish “footings”.

- a) The “Wise” man of Luke 6:48 “dugged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock”
His “footing” was solid bedrock!
- b) The foolish “built an house upon the earth.” His “footing” was shifting dirt or sand!

B. Most build their relationships on foolish (shifting) “footings”:

- 1) Physical attraction. (eros) Pr 7:22-23; Pr. 11:22
- 2) Emotional attraction. (philos) Pr 31:30 *“Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain”*
Putting your “faith” in only the physical or emotional is Vain!

C. The only “Wise” footing is God’s Agape Love. Pr 31:30

“Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD,

(Has A Foundation Of Genuine Faith In God) she shall be praised.”

(hālāl’: to shine or celebrate)

Conclusion: We’re Created to Care. (Love!)

- We can’t “Care” without Connecting. (Relationships)
- We can’t “connect” without Reaching and Risking Rejection.
- Risk requires Faith!

Eros and Philos have an element of “insecurity” because of the frailty and “fickleness” of human relationships. 1 Jn 4:18 *“There is no fear in love; (agape) but Perfect (complete) love casteth out fear”*

The Security of our love is based on our relationship with God!

Consider the first human “Relationship”

- 1) Adam’s faith in God’s love enabled him to recognize and respond to Eve with “agape”, producing security in both Philos (emotional) and Eros (physical) love. (Gen. 2:25)

“they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Bôsh: Disappointed

- 2) When willful sin entered the garden: they hid from God (Ge. 3:8), their nakedness brought shame (3:7) and they turned on each other in blame. (3:12)

Application:

Satan knows that agape (God’s Love) is the fountain and foundation of human love!

That’s why we must be rightly related to God in order to rightly related to others. (1 Jn. 4:18-21)

Ecc. 4:9-12 *“Two are better than one...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken”*

1 Cor. 13:13 *“now abideth Faith (conviction), Hope (anticipation), Charity (benevolent affection), these three; but the greatest of these, is charity”*

Let’s stop repeating the rebellion of Eden, (Ro. 5:12)

And reconnect with the Source of perfect love! (Rev. 2:5)



The Choice is Yours!

