

Learning to Love 1 Cor. 13

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 11th

God's given us love that involves the physical (eros: erotic), emotional (philos: Affection) and Spiritual (Agape:Charity). *"The greatest of these is charity"*. 1 Cor 13 provides a description of some of the different "dimensions" of agape love. *"Charity suffereth long (patient endurance) and is Kind"* (practical benevolence) The other qualities listed in this chapter give examples of what "practical kindness under pressure" looks and acts like; and doesn't look (act) like.

What agape love is not!

1. Agape is not Envious! *"Charity envieth not" vs 4*

A. Definition:

- 1) Webster: a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck.
- 2) Greek: Zēlo'ō: To Envy or covet From zē'los: Heat, (anger) Jealous

B. Explanation: Envy:

- 1) Based on Selfishness.
- 2) Violates the 10th Commandment. (Ex. 20:17)
- 3) Comes from comparisons. 2 Cor 10:12
- 4) Produces resentment and bitterness...
- 5) Which poisons relationships. (Heb. 12:15) *"thereby many be defiled"*

C. Illustration: Cain Gen. 4; 1 Jn 3:12

2. Agape is not Arrogant! *"vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up" vs 4*

A. Definition:

- 1) Webster's: having an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities:
- 2) Greek *"Vaunteth"* (perpereu'omai) To brag or boast. *"Puffed up"* (physio'ō) inflated.

B. Explanation. Agape is about giving!

- 1) That's why anything done for self glorification is empty. Vs 1-3 (See Eccl.)
- 2) God hates pride! (Pr. 6:16-19)
- 3) Pride produces Conflict. Pr 13:10 *"Only by pride cometh contention"* zādōn: arrogance

C. Illustration: The Scribes and Pharisees. Mark 12:38-40; Luke 18:10-14

3. Agape is not Inappropriate! Vs. 5 *"Doth not behave itself unseemly"*

A. Definition:

- 1) Webster: not suitable or proper in the circumstances
- 2) Greek: aschēmone'ō: uncomely, unattractive, inappropriate.

B. Explanation:

- 1) Standards of "appropriate" have changed!
Language (slang); Dress/clothes; Music, Dance, art; "acceptable" Behavior.
- 2) These inevitably "affect" relationships because they affect and reflect our Values!
- 3) We must be Principled people or we will drift with the changing currents of our culture!
(Pr. 22:28; Jer. 6:10-16) Agape considers the impact of our actions on others! 1 Cor. 10:23-33

C. Recent Examples of promoting the “inappropriate”:

- 1) Oscar Host Jimmy Kimmel commenting on “Best Picture” Nominations said:
“of the nine best picture nominees only two made more than \$100 million. But that's not the point. We don't make films like 'Call Me By Your Name' for money. We make them to upset Mike Pence.” (Aka: Christians) (See Proverbs 10:32)
- 2) Another 2018 “best picture nomination was for the movie “A Fantastic Woman” which was actually about a transgendered man.
- 3) Reality show “dating naked” was finally canceled after 3 seasons!

4. Agape is not Selfish vs 5 *“Seeketh not her own.”*

A. Definition: Lacking consideration for others. Concerned chiefly with one's own interests, profit or pleasure.

B. Explanation: Agape is “other” focused. That’s what motivates it to give! Galatians 5:13
“ye have been called unto liberty; use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

Jesus is the antithesis (opposite) of selfishness!

Matthew 11:29 *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek (praos: Humble, gentle) and lowly in heart.”*

Conclusion: Phil. 2:1-

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels (sympathies) and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, (agape) being of one accord, of one mind.”

How can we (being so different) be of “one mind”?

“let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem other, better than themselves. . . . Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ.

Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

In doing this, he demonstrated God’s Agape love to us. (Ro. 5:8)

God is still looking for those He can use to demonstrate His love!

Philippians 2:13-16

- Will you allow God to develop His agape love in your life? “to will” Ph. 2:13
- Will you allow Him to “demonstrate” it through your life? “to do” Ph. 2:13

*“Ye are the light of the world. . .
Let your light so shine before men, that they
may see your good works, and glorify your
Father which is in heaven.”*

Mt. 5:14-16

