

J.J.

SO THAT'S LOVE Part 3

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- Workman's Workshop will start on October 19 at Brampton Civic Library
- A family each week will be assigned to come in early to help in the setting up of chairs
- Please don't touch school property

INTRODUCTION :

Christians are known to be people who are careful in hurting other people's feelings. It also applies when a Christian is dating another Christian and the other party is trying to break up with him/her

Christian Break-Up Lines

1. "I'm sorry, I've found someone more spiritual."
2. "I'm sorry, it's just not God's will
3. "I feel called to the ministry_very soon and very far from you as soon as possible."
4. God has a better plan for my life
5. Woman to man : You know, I feel like I'm dating my brother.
6. I think we should be prayer partners.
7. I love you but it's agape love.

1 Corinthians 13 : 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.

Review :

- I. THE PRIMACY OF LOVE
- II. THE PRACTICE OF LOVE

Love is practical. It is more than an emotional response. It's a volitional decision. YOU CAN CHOOSE TO LOVE. Today, we will continue to study on how we can practice showing God's love to others.

We've already finished with

Love suffers long

We've talked about that one of the reasons why we can be patient to another person is because our Lord Jesus Christ has been patient with us.

Biblical Example : If you remember the story of Jonah, usually what we remember is the “whale” (by the way, it was never mentioned it was a whale.) What was mentioned was a big fish. **But the real story is God’s patience to people and his pursuit that they come back to him.** If you remember the story, God has asked Jonah to

Jonah 1:2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” ³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish;

Application : Tarshish was 500 miles from Joppa (that’s about from Toronto to Quebec) and Jonah instead of going to Nineveh, went the opposite direction and wanted to go to Tarshish (2500 miles from Nineveh) So imagine this, it’s just like God is asking me to go to Quebec but I didn’t want to go and went the opposite direction and I went to Vancouver.

Why does Jonah don’t want to go and preach the need for repentance to the Ninevites?

The Ninevites were a ruthless and warlike people who hated Israel. Sounds familiar? It’s just like the radical Muslims in the Middle East. They are ruthless and hates Jews and Christians.

And yet God wanted this people to be saved from destruction. Why?

Jonah 4: 1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to the Lord, and said, “Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

I love how the New King James Version entitled Jonah chapter 4, the translators titled it. “Jonah’s Anger and God’s Kindness”

Which now brings us to the second practice of love :

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind;

Now, when you study your Bible, you are always conscious of words and how it is placed.

You ask yourself, why did the Holy Spirit inspire Paul to write “*Love suffers long and is kind*” when he could have wrote, “Love suffers long...and bears all things....or endures all things”

It is because patience and kindness come together.

Quote : It takes a lot of patience to be kind and you cannot be kind if you are impatient.

What is the kindness that Paul is talking about here?

Which now brings us to how this word is used

Etymology : kind “chrēsteuomai”

There are three words for “kind” in the Bible

- **Agathos** – translated as good
- **Philantrophos** - philos “friendly love” anthropos “man” - friendly love to another man
It is when you are helping another human being who is in need.

But the third one is “chresteuomai”. It is only used in this verse.

It means “to show one’s self mild”

It comes from the word “chrestos” mild, pleasant (not harsh or sharp or bitter)

Do you notice that when you lose your patience, you become harsh, or sharp or bitter?

This is the reason why PATIENCE AND BEING KIND (CHRESTEUOMAI) go together.

Loving people are kind people...loving people are “mild and pleasant” people

Illustration : Sometimes, when we are out having a good time as a family, and then I lose my patience, and then I get angry, my wife would just remind me, “Pleasant lang please...ang saya-saya e.”

HERE ARE THE PRACTICAL WAYS (THE PRACTICE OF LOVE) OF BEING KIND (Chresteuomai)

When do we show “kindness” (being mild and pleasant) to people?

- **Be kind when other people are undergoing trials**

Matthew 11:30 For My yoke is easy (chrestos) and My burden is light.”

A verse describing Jesus :

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break,

***I found this quote useful.**

Quote : Be kind to other people because you don’t know what they are undergoing through.

Illustration : One time, a customer of mine was becoming impatient and was raising her voice already on me. Usually, I also raise my voice but during this time, by God’s grace, I asked her mildly, “Are you having a bad day today?” And then she calmed down and said that she just recovered from cancer and she has to go to work. I know the reason why she needs to go to work because she has a family to take care of.

Who do we show kindness to?

- **We show kindness to one another.**

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind (chrestos) to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Remember, our Lord said,

John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Brothers and sisters, we have to be patient and kind and tenderhearted and forgiving to one another as God in Christ forgave us.

Early on in my Christian life, this quote stuck into my head.

Quote : The Christian army is the only army in the world where they shoot one another.

Illustration : Two soldiers where in the trenches in the middle of a battle and they were arguing harshly with each other. The general saw this and went to them, got them by the collar and said, “Men, the enemy is out there!”

We have to remember that we are also portrayed in the Bible as a soldier and we are not against flesh and blood.

- **We show kindness even to our enemies.**

(people who we don’t like or who hate us)

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind (chrestos) to the unthankful and evil.

Story : According to a traditional Hebrew story, Abraham was sitting outside his tent one evening when he saw an old man, weary from age and journey, coming toward him. Abraham rushed out, greeted him, and then invited him into his tent. There he washed the old man's feet and gave him food and drink. The old man immediately began eating without saying any prayer or blessing. So Abraham asked him, "Don't you worship God?"

The old traveler replied, "I worship fire only and reverence no other god."

When he heard this, Abraham became incensed, grabbed the old man by the shoulders, and threw him out his his tent into the cold night air.

When the old man had departed, God called to his friend Abraham and asked where the stranger was. Abraham replied, "I forced him out because he did not worship you."

God answered, "I have suffered him these eighty years although he dishonors me. Could you not endure him one night?"

How do we show kindness (chresteuomai) being mild and pleasant?

- **We show kindness with our choice of words**

If being kind (chresteuomai) means to “show oneself mild”, the book of Proverbs has a lot to say regarding our choice of words, let me point out a few of them.

Proverbs 12:18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Illustration : When I was already working, I said some nasty things to my mom and dad saying, “Pareho kayong gago.” Oh I so regretted that, my mom went to me, did not slap me or shouted but just held my face and said, “Sana kumuha ka na lang ng kutsilyo at sinaksak mo ako. Ang sakit.” And then she went away crying.

We have to remember that when we speak, we need to choose our words carefully – to bring healing to relationships, to those who are in sin, to those who are discouraged.

I love these verses in Proverbs :

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

Proverbs 16:24 Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Don't you love talking to people who are like that. People who give sweetness to your soul. There's a big difference between flattery and encouragement. Flattery's intention is to get something from you so they say things that will tickle you. Encouragement listens first to you and then brings healing to you.

Remember, we must choose our words carefully. Choose words that will build and encourage, specially if the person concerned is not there.

Proverbs 11:12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

- **We show kindness with our tone of voice.**

Remember, it's not only what you say that shows our love but how you say it is of equal importance.

Proverbs 15:4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Practical Goal : When we are talking to somebody, our objective is not to show who is right and wrong but for you to understand him/her and for him/her to understand what you are saying.

If we start raising our voices, we will not achieve the goal of understanding. YOU MAY MAKE SOMEBODY DO WHAT YOU WANT OR GET YOUR WAY BUT HE WILL NOT DO IT BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU OR HE WANTS TO BUT BECAUSE HE JUST DOESN'T WANT TROUBLE OR HE'S AFRAID OF YOU.

Proverbs 15: 1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Quote : Leadership is influence – John Maxwell.

You can never "influence" somebody when you get angry. The biggest influencers are people who follow them because they love to follow them.

Important : Just like Christ, we follow Christ because we realize His patience, kindness and gentleness to us and we follow Him because we love Him and not because we are afraid of Him.

Now it doesn't mean we don't rebuke or correct someone or confront a person who is in sin. The Bible says,

*Proverbs 27: Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.*

*⁶ Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses*

But we must be kind in choosing our words and in our tone of voice.

Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Example : I love my bestfriend Peter. I know he loves me too. Every Tuesday, when I was in the Philippines, we attend a prayer meeting between 6:00 to 6:30 in the morning and then afterwards, we will have breakfast together. This friend of mine knows all my weaknesses and my failures as a person. But the one thing I love about him is when I can always tell that to him but the first thing he does is listen. Afterwards, he will not speak immediately, he will just keep silent and with a gentle tone of voice, he will correct me with choice words and say, that he is also prone to that kind of mistake and encourage me to walk faithfully with the Lord again. It will not be heavy. After talking with Peter, you will feel alive and joyful again and then we will be laughing again. He advised me, corrected me and I understood him and afterwards, we will be laughing and telling jokes with one another again.

We'll talk about this more in our next meeting

CONCLUSION :

Story : Mamie Adams always went to a branch post office in her town because the postal employees there were friendly. She went there to buy stamps just before Christmas one year and the lines were particularly long. Someone pointed out that there was no need to wait in line because there was a stamp machine in the lobby. "I know," said Mamie, 'but the machine won't ask me about my arthritis."

Quote : Kindness makes a person attractive. If you would win the world, melt it, do not hammer it. - Alexander Maclaren.

S.G.D.