

J.J.

SO THAT'S "NOT" LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- Workman's Workshop on November 9, 6 people have already signed up 20 week (every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturday of the month)
- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, please sign up how many boxes you would like. We will be ordering the shoeboxes this week.
- Mentioning the name of Jesus – please continue and I thank God from what I've read and heard, many of you are practicing it. We've even changed our regular TGIF Bible Study to TJIF (thanks to Vicky)
- Preparing for Harvest – youth attended ATF, Women had their planning and fellowship yesterday, Men will have their planning and fellowship next Saturday, Workshop, TJIF, Sunday Service...growth seminar is being planned

I encourage you to be active in these ministries not because out of duty but because your spiritual growth also depends on this growth.

(Some people would say, "I can grow on my own" but not as fast as God wants you to be.) Illustration : a piece of coal together with others (Hebrews 10:25)

And when you join, take an active part of "How can I serve?" Don't even wait for someone to ask you what to do. Volunteer. Ask. For God's Glory! It is for His glory!

If you have an idea, pray about it. Sound it off. Ask your ministries?

INTRODUCTION :

There was once a quiz bee between the leaders of the countries. The contestants were Harper, Obama and Erap. All were pretty good and they all got the same points. Then came the tie-breaking question. The type of the question was fill in the blank and spell the answer.

The statement runs this way

"Old McDonald had a _____."

The contestants immediately pushed the buzzer. Harper was the first so he was given the chance first.

Host: "Okey Harper, what is your answer?":

Harper "Old McDonald had a Duck ?"

Host: "I'm sorry, but that's not the correct answer."

It was then Obama's chance.

Host: "Mr. Obama, what's do you think is the correct answer?"

Roco: " Old McDonald had a Farme (as in farm) sir?"

Host: "That's right Mr. Obama! Now, will you please spell 'farm'?"

Roco: " F-A-R-M-E!"

Host: "I'm sorry, but the spelling is wrong."

Then came Erap's chance. If he spells it right, he'll win the contest!

Host: "Sir, will you now give us your answer ?"

Erap: "Sure! That's nothing!!" Harper and Obama are idiots, this is very easy.

His answer?

"Old McDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!"

*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

WE NOW CONTINUE AND OUR STUDY IS “WHAT LOVE IS NOT.”

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

Note : When we talk about what love is not. It means these behaviours that are listed above are contrary or the exact opposite of love.

IT MEANS, when we catch ourselves doing this or feeling this, THEN WE ARE NOT PRACTICING LOVE...OR WE ARE NOT LOVING.

Last week : We started talking about

love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

Why did I categorize this as one?

It's because these three has one cause : comparing yourself with others.

And to compare ourselves with others is pride. Let me quote again C.S. Lewis

"Pride leads to every other vice.... Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, cleverer, or better-looking than others. If every one else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone"

– C.S. Lewis "Mere Christianity"

We started to look at

love does not envy;

Etymology : envy "zeloo" from the root word "zelos"

Note : This word is a neutral word which means to desire earnestly or to boil with envy.

The Greeks have a god called "zelos", he is a god of rivalry, jealousy and envy.

***Envy is stirred up by comparing what others have that you don't have and you desire to have it.**

Story : Dwight L. Moody once told the fable of an eagle who was envious of another that could fly better than he could. One day the bird saw a sportsman with a bow and arrow and said to him, "I wish you would bring down that eagle up there." The man said he would if he had some feathers for his arrow. So the jealous eagle pulled one out of his wing. The arrow was shot, but it didn't quite reach the rival bird because he was flying too high. The first eagle pulled out another feather, then another--until he had lost so many that he himself couldn't fly. The archer took advantage of the situation, turned around, and killed the helpless bird. Moody made this application: if you are envious of others, the one you will hurt the most by your actions will be yourself.

Show again the envy tree.

To continue :

love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

Other versions

it does not boast; it is not proud(NIV)

Let's talk about "boast" or "parade itself"

Etyymology : parade itself; boast; vaunteth (*perpereuomai*) self-display; employs rhetorical embellishments in extolling one's self excessively.

Root word of *perpereuomai* is *perperos* which means "braggart" which comes from "peran" which means "to go beyond"

The word *perperumoai* is just used in this instance in the New Testament.

The other word for boasting in the Bible is "kauchoaomai" which refers to speech. (used 23x in the NT).

***BOASTING IS about showcasing oneself to show himself superior whether in speech or behaviour.**

In our modern language, it means "to show-off", the greek word is "douchebag" (joking), in Chinese, "hunhang" (joking again)

No one likes a show-off BUT remember our sinful nature would sometimes dominate and without realizing it, we are already showing off.

What are the things we boast about? Let's look at the Bible

Jeremiah 9:23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

Based on this verse, we boast about three things :

- **We boast about our knowledge or skill**

"Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom,

Illustration : There was this seminary professor who met a man who claimed to have memorized the Old Testament--in Hebrew! Needless to say, the astonished professor asked for a demonstration. A few days later they sat together in the man's home. "Where shall we begin?" asked the man. "Psalm 1," replied the professor, who was an avid student of the psalms. Beginning with Psalm 1:1, the man began to recite from memory, while my professor followed along in his Hebrew Bible. For two hours the man continued word for word without a mistake as the professor sat in stunned silence. When the demonstration was over, my professor discovered something even more astonishing about the man--he was an atheist! Here was someone who knew the Scriptures better than most Christians ever will, and yet he didn't even believe in God. (Jack Kuhatschek, Taking The Guesswork Out of Applying The Bible,)

Note : There's nothing wrong with having knowledge of the Bible but let's make sure that the reason we want to know more about it so that we can know more about God and love Him more and find out what pleases Him....and what pleases Him is that you become more loving because you know Him more.

Look at Paul's prayer for the Philippians :

Philippians 1:9 I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

Shameless Plug : That's the reason why I encourage you to sign in the Workman's Workshop...to know more about who God is, so that your faith will be strengthened and your love will grow more and find out what pleases him.

- **We boast about our power or accomplishments**

let not the mighty man boast in his might

Biblical Illustration :

Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 was boasting one day which was a fulfillment of the dream that Daniel interpreted.

Daniel 4: 28 ²⁸ "But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon. ³⁰ As he looked out across the city, he said, 'Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.'

³¹ "While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, 'O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. ³² You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow.

An example of words we say that show we boast about our might?

"If it were not for me...." (e.g. if it were not for me, you will not be in that position or for some pastors, this church is not standing or etc)

By the way, we can also boast about our “spiritual” power or accomplishments

- Some people boast about their giving to others or helping other people
- Some people boast about their religious practices

Matthew 6:1-8 tells us that when we give or help (don’t let the left hand know what your right hand is doing) or when we do our religious duties, we don’t do it to show how faithful or spiritual you are.

- **We boast about our wealth or influences**

let not the rich man boast in his riches,

Note : This I guess is self explanatory **but there is a passive way we boast** in our wealth or influences, when we think we don’t need others or we don’t need God simply because we have everything.

Our arrogance shows by not acknowledging God for what He has given us. One of the reasons we attend church is to worship and acknowledge that everything comes from Jesus.

We must never boast :

James 4:16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Balance : So does it mean we do not tell or show others what we know or our wealth and etc?

Example : So does it mean you can’t buy a BMW and not drive it around? Or you shouldn’t wear expensive clothes?

Remember, BOASTING IS A MATTER OF THE HEART! That’s why Paul used the word “perpereumoi”

It becomes boasting when by showing them you feel you are superior than the person next to you.

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

Note : There’s nothing wrong with knowledge, power or wealth just as long as you use it for two things :

1. **Use what you have received not to emphasize yourself but to edify others.**

Proverbs 25:14 Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

The reason why we were given knowledge, power or wealth is in order to share it and build others up!

THAT’S THE LOVING THING TO DO!

2. Use what you have receive not to glorify yourself but to glorify God.

1 Corinthians 1:31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

We show our love for God by giving Him the glory on the things He gave us.

Now, does it mean we shouldn't accept praise from other people?

What does the Bible say?

Proverbs 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

It becomes boasting when you are praising yourself for what you know, what you have or what you do.

Quote : If you're good at something, you will tell them. But if you're great at something, they will tell you. (Anonymous)

Here's how you react when somebody praises you :

You say, "Thank You Lord!" "Thank You Jesus!" "By God's grace" or "God is good" because you acknowledge the Giver of the gift.

Illustration : I've noticed that one of my officemates has a an expensive diamond ring on her finger. I say, "Wow, that's a nice diamond ring". She then replies, "My boyfriend gave this to me." What did I say, "Your boyfriend must be rich."

You saw what happened here? The attention shifted from the gift to the giver.

Get the attitude of John the Baptist :

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease

Why is boasting not love?

Because it's making and thinking of yourself superior than others

Love is not building yourself up but building others up.

Look at the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 20:28 ... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

What great condescension! Jesus who is God Almighty and Creator of the Universe who is worthy to be served came not to be served but to serve.

This is the antidote of all boasting and pride! IF WE FOCUS ONLY IN SERVING THE LORD AND OTHERS, PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON GOD AND OTHERS, THEN WE WILL HAVE NO TIME AND ROOM FOR BOASTING.

S.G.D.

Puffed up...it's an attitude of being bigger or better than the other person
Don't think of yourself more highly...