

SO THAT'S LOVE Part 2

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- **September 22 is Moving Day** (Slaying the Giant : Preparing the field scene)
- **From now on, just mention the name of Jesus.** We don't mention His Name enough. Mention His name in Facebook status...in Twitter, in your conversations. Right from the very beginning, when the church was starting, they are forbidding the speaking or mentioning of His name.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Acts 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

Do a good deed (random or purposefully), show a scandalous kind of love and when somebody asks you why, "I do this because of Jesus"

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

16... What shall we do to these men?

17... But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge."²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Then they prayed for boldness to speak in the name of Jesus and the whole place was shaken.

- Workman's Workshop (start of October)
2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- Pray over Noel for Men's Ministry – character over skill

2 Timothy 2:8 In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. ¹² A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. ¹³ Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

INTRODUCTION :

We attract people to Christ by our love :

Rica Peralejo Testimony : Excerpt

"Some of my friends got saved, got to know the Lord and they would asked me to go to Bible study..."

Rica says to her friends *"That's so corny, who wants to go in a Bible study, let's just go out and drink."*

She then added, *"I'm open to it but not right now."*

"When I turned 25, I met one of them again, quietly he would give me books to read and play worship songs around me. After awhile, since I hang out so much with these people, I would notice the difference in their lives. Because I noticed that, I was kind of intrigued, I was looking but I wouldn't admit it to myself that I wanted that kind of life."

Amalayer Testimony : (Excerpt)

A Christian tweeted her and said that "God will restore you". One thing led to another and she attended a Christian service and here is what she felt, *"it was very warm, naramdaman kong welcome ako...naramdaman kong niyayakap ako ni Jesus."* She eventually gave her life to Jesus and got baptized last March 3, 2013. God works in mysterious ways. She even said that if not for this incident, she wouldn't have this relationship with Jesus Christ. She wouldn't have this new life in Christ.

Today, we'll continue with our series on how we practice love – patience.

A man in a supermarket was pushing a cart which contained, among other things, a screaming baby. As the man proceeded along the aisles, he kept repeating softly, "Keep calm, Thomas. Don't get excited, Thomas. Don't yell, Thomas."

A lady watched with admiration and then said, "You are certainly to be commended for your patience in trying to quiet little Thomas."

"Lady," he declared, " , "I'M THOMAS!"

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.

Background :

- We have already discussed that the Corinthians were spiritually gifted and have knowledge but there were divisions among them, immorality and pride. Obviously, there was a lack of love for God and for others

I. THE PRIMACY OF LOVE

II. THE PRACTICE OF LOVE

THE PRACTICE OF LOVE

Remember, the Christian kind of love entails self-sacrifice and is unconditional

It is not dependent on your mood, or your circumstances or how the other person treats you or reacts to you or on your feelings.

***As described before, we love because we want to not because we have to.**

You know what the opposite of love is?

We immediately think that the opposite of love is hate. No. The opposite of love is “apathy”
Etymology : apathy from “a” nothing “pathos” affection

Apathy is a “I don’t care” attitude or “who cares?” attitude

Apathy can be shown in ways that says, “I don’t care how he or she will feel, I’m just telling the truth anyway.”

Love by its very nature, cares. It is not passive. It’s always active whether by “doing something” or by controlling ourselves “not to do something.”

***You see how agape love should be practiced?**

It is a positive action

Positive actions are the things we should be actively applying in our lives

Love suffers long and is kind... rejoices in the truth;⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

It’s also a negative action

Negative actions are the things we should be actively controlling in our lives.

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

This now brings us to the first practice of love :

Love suffers long

Other translations translate this as “Love is patient...NIV”

Etymology : suffers long; patient “makrothumeo” of long spirit, not to lose heart

Slow to anger, slow to punish

From two words “makros” long or far off or distant and “thumos” anger, from “thuo” to slay or kill

In short, patience is being far from anger or from hurting or killing or avenging

Now, when the Bible talks about patience :

- **Patience in dealing with our own suffering**

Patience is singing while waiting. That’s how we show our love for God because it shows our trust and confidence in Him.

*Look at Paul’s prayer to the Colossians :

Colossians 1: For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

To continue:

- **Patience in dealing with the suffering caused by others.**

Illustration : A *Peanuts* cartoon shows Lucy standing with her arms folded and a stern expression on her face. Charlie Brown pleads, “Lucy, you must be more loving. This world really needs love. You have to let yourself love to make this world a better place.” Lucy angrily whirls around and knocks Charlie Brown to the ground. She screams at him, “Look, Blockhead, the world I love. Its people I can’t stand.”

When we are talking about love, we are not talking about the usual kind of love that even unbelievers could practice like storge (familial), phileo (friendly) or eros (romantic, physical) but what we are talking about is “agape” kind of love which is self-sacrificial and unconditional.

This is the kind of love the world notices.

Last TGIF, Reuben made a very good observation on why long suffering is first on the list when it comes to the practice of love.

***Patience is the most visible practice of love because it entails self-sacrifice and unconditional love even to the very people who caused their suffering.**

Why do we need to practice it towards others.

- Patience reflects the love of Jesus Christ.

Illustration : The Lord was betrayed, punched, flogged, insulted, spat upon, given a crown of thorns and then nailed to the cross. Remember, He is God who created the very hands that punched and flogged Him, the God who created the very mouth that spat on Him and insulted Him but what did He say, “*Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing*” *Luke 23:34*

He could have chosen to destroy mankind in just one swoop at that time but He didn’t.

Why? I will forever remember this poster that I saw in a barber shop in the Philippines that depicted Jesus’ hands nailed on the cross

Quote : It wasn’t the nails that held him on the cross, it was His love.

- It affects our testimony of Jesus Christ.

Let me give you a negative example.

One time, I think that was three years ago, I had a day off so I asked my wife Chicay to Bramalea Mall with me together with Mica. I was trying to find a parking slot that was near the entrance. Fortunately, I found one and moved my car forward, turned on my signal light and was going to back up in the slot. While I was doing that, a car “stole” my parking and he and his girlfriend immediately got off the car to go to the mall. I would not allow that to just pass by. So I got off the van, (Chicay thought I was just checking out something) and shouted at the man, “Hey, hey...” and then I began berating him. I was very angry and I was shouting at the top of my lungs that I know he wants to punch me. But then he just said, “You’ve got your wife and kid with you.” And then he said, “I’ll move my car”

Afterwards, I got so convicted and I know the Holy Spirit was talking to me and said, “What if somebody invites that person to church and then he sees you preaching God’s Word?” I don’t think this guy will believe it when I say that “love is patient” because he did not see that in my life.

That’s why the Bible says,

*1 Thessalonians 5:14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, **be patient with everyone.***

When your patience is being tested

- Remember God has chosen you.

Colossians 3: 12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

We are God’s people. We represent Jesus Christ, that’s why we are called Christians.

- Remember God has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Biblical Illustration: (Parable of the Unmerciful Servant)

Matthew 18: ²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times"

There was a king who wanted to settle accounts with a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold and the servant wasn't able to pay so he ordered the wife and kids be sold.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go."

But this servant went out and saw fellow servant who owed him a hundred silver coins (remember, ten thousand bags of gold compared to hundred silver coins), he grabbed and began to choke the servant and asked him to pay him back .

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

Other servants saw it and reported it to the King.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.' ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"

Paul said to Timothy, Jesus Christ has shown as patience as a pattern for us to follow :

1 Timothy 1 : However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Do you want to really know how God loves? Some people only know God's love in their brain (head knowledge) but don't really know it.

Quote : God invites you to understand His love by loving others the way he does. – Max Lucado

Challenge :

Next time, when somebody hurts you, insults you, cuts you off and etc, let it be your motivation, "I want to understand how God loves me, I'll show my love by being patient". When you practice that, that's how you will understand God's love.

S.G.D.

Kind...like dove