

J.J.

SO THAT'S "NOT" LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- Workman's Workshop will start on October 19 at Brampton Civic Library. It will be for 20 Saturdays, approximately 3 Saturdays a month.
- Sign up please
- Mentioning the name of Jesus – please continue and I thank God from what I've read and heard, many of you are practicing it.
- Birthday Celebrants

INTRODUCTION :

Three presidents were in a conference and were bragging to each other :

The president of Russia bragged, " We were the first one to fly a man into outer space!"

The president of the United States replied : We are better. We were the first one to land a man on the moon.

The president of the Philippines said, "Both of your countries are nothing. We are going to be the first one to land a man on the sun."

The president of Russia and the U.S. was amazed and asked, "How are you planning to do that?"

The president of the Philippines proudly replied, "Easy. We are going there at night!"

Today, we're going to study what love is not.

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 and is kind;

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?

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.

Have you practiced patience and kindness (chresteuomai) this week? Practice it. If you do then you are practicing love.

***Quote :** "Beloved, have you ever thought that someday you will not have anything to try you, or anyone to vex you again? There will be no opportunity in heaven to learn or to show the spirit of patience, forbearance, and longsuffering. If you are to practice these things, it must be now." -19th Century preacher A.B. Simpson

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.

***Quote :** Before we study this, let me just share to you what Kate posted in her Facebook page **"The love for equals is a human thing**--- of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing--- the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion and it touches the heart of the world. The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing—

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing --- to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice....

And then there is love for the enemy---love for those who does not love you but mocks, threatens and inflicts pain. The tortured’s love for the torturer. This is God’s love. It conquers the world.

- Frederick Buechner (The Magnificent Defeat)

Note : The first two points, yes it is great but even the pagans can do that. But the third and the fourth point, that's a kind of love that is supernatural.

You will really know if a person “really” loves you, not only in times of need but I believe more importantly in times of your prosperity or success or the times when your “blessings” at that time are better or greater than theirs.

Why? It's because they are happy when you are happy. They rejoice with you when you are enjoying your blessings!

We usually can do this command of Jesus Christ

Romans 12:15....mourn with those who mourn

But we usually omit the first part...

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Illustration : I've seen people who are great in mourning with those who mourn or helping people when they are in need and that is good **BUT** when they see other people rejoicing because of a certain blessing like a new car, new dress, new house or a nice vacation, specially if they're not part of it, they get angry or annoyed or they will have something to say under their breath. They are like the witch in Sleeping Beauty who was forgotten to be invited in the christening when the Queen's daughter was born. That witch got mad and put a curse on the baby.

I love it when people are excited when they learn about another person's blessings! Yes, “mourning with those who mourn” is great, that touches the heart because of the compassion that is shown. But people “rejoicing with those who rejoice” that excites the heart. **AND THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THIS CHURCH WHOM I SEE REALLY KNOWS WHAT LOVE IS BECAUSE I SEE THEM REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE.**

The Lord our God Himself rejoices over us.

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God in your midst,

The Mighty One, will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,

He will quiet you with His love,

He will rejoice over you with singing.”

One of the proofs that a person is full of pride is when he cannot rejoice with those who rejoice.

Why? It's because at the heart of pride is “self”.

A truly humble person is “selfless”

One of the books I recommend that you read is “Mere Christianity” by C.S. Lewis. He has a section there called “The Great Sin” and he has something to say about humility.

Quote : To even get near [humility], even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert.

Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call “humble” nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody.

Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a **cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him.**

If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.

- C.S. Lewis “Mere Christianity.

This is the kind of love that Christ has. He was thinking of us when He was on the cross.

I love the lyrics of “Above All”

Here’s part of it :

Crucified

Laid behind a stone

You lived to die

Rejected and alone

Like a rose

Trampled on the ground

You took the fall

And thought of me

Above all

Biblical Illustration : Isn’t that what Stephen demonstrated when he was being stoned? He was still thinking about the welfare of the other person even if he himself was suffering.

Acts 7: 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;⁵⁸ and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Today we’re studying 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 ourself 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"

One of the things I always advise to my children : NEVER COMPARE YOURSELF WITH OTHERS.

It's either you will find someone weaker or less fortunate than you and that can be a cause of boasting or someone will be better or more fortunate than you and that can be a cause of envy.

What we need to do is ALWAYS FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS!

Now, let's look at the three in detail

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

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.

Note : Desire in itself is a neutral thing. It becomes sinful when it turns into envy.

Biblical Illustration :

Acts 7:9 And the patriarch, moved with envy sold Joseph into Egypt...

They desire their father's love which is not bad but they compare the love that Jacob gives to Joseph with the love that was being given to them.

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

Example 1: You will not be envious if you equally have what they have ...or you have something better (that's can be a source of boasting...but that's the next study)

Study : There was a study recently about Facebook users and it showed that a lot of people get depressed when looking at their friends wall specially when their friend just came from a nice expensive vacation.

Quote : A study just published by the *Public Library of Science*, conducted by Ethan Kross of the University of Michigan and Philippe Verduyn of Leuven University in Belgium, has shown that the more someone uses Facebook, the less satisfied he is with life.

Past investigations have found that using Facebook is associated with jealousy, social tension, isolation and depression

They found that the most common emotion aroused by using Facebook is envy. Endlessly comparing themselves with peers who have doctored their photographs, amplified their achievements and plagiarised their *bons mots* can leave Facebook's users more than a little green-eyed.

- Economist.com

<http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21583593-using-social-network-seems-make-people-more-miserable-get-life>

Article : Get a life!: Using the social network seems to make people more miserable

A perfect source of envy : Vacations!

You will not be envious if both of you are on a plane right now going on a nice expensive vacation.

But if you see in Facebook, that a person you personally and closely know is on a nice expensive vacation and you don't feel anything about it or even worse, you don't like it, then that's envy.

Remember, the opposite of love is apathy. So when you see someone you know who is on a nice vacation and you don't rejoice or you are not happy about it, then that's not loving. "Rejoice with those who rejoice" right?

Example 2 : You will not be envious if you do not desire what the other person has

For example, if someone comes to me and says, "Pastor, I bought a new MAC mascara today." I would be happy for you but not be envious because I don't care about mascara since I'm a man. But a person who is envious would either be apathetic or mutter under her breath. "Hmmp...pa MAC, MAC pa na tatak, puwede namang Maybelline lang."

The Bible commands

Galatians 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

What's the opposite of envying one another? Rejoicing with those who rejoice! THAT'S PRACTICING LOVE!

How do we deal with envy?

Story : A farmer saw his fellow farmer buy a cow. He was so envious about it that he prayed to God to take away his envy. So God talked to him and said, "I want to take away your being envious, what do you want me to do?" The farmer said, "God, please kill his cow"

That's not how we deal with envy.

It's just like wishing it would rain when someone is on a nice vacation and you weren't invited into it.

1. Acknowledge the tendency to envy

Dr. Richard Ostella says that everyone has a tendency to envy because of our sinful nature.

He said there are warm coals inside of us that are sometimes flamed in a negative when we see somebody have something that we don't have.

The problem usually with envy is those who have it don't usually admit it.

What is the root of envy again? Pride.

And what did we say about "pride". It's like having body odor, other people notice it except you.

***Dr. Ostella talks about the "envy tree"**. The root of it is pride, the trunk is envy but it branches out to malice, bitterness and slander.

Illustration : I've seen people deal with envy by dismissing it. "Hmph, I don't need that" or by finding something negative about the situation or the object that they have. "Hmph, I wouldn't go to Paris, I don't like this artsy fartsy thing." Or malice, "How can they afford that?"

What do we need to do again? ? REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE!

2. Follow the example of Christ

2 Corinthians 8:9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. (NLT)

You see the love and humility of Christ? He knows that the greatest joy you can have is to have that relationship with Him and the only way you can have that relationship with Him is if He, our Lord Jesus would go down from His heavenly throne and become a man like us, identify with us and die on the cross to pay for our sins.

We can apply it daily in our lives when we are consumed with the joy and welfare of others that we totally forget ourselves. That's what our Lord did, and we can do it also by His grace.

Next time, Lord willing will talk about how to deal with boasting.

S.G.D.