

Nine Virtues of Divine Love – 2
Dr. Jay Zinn • River's Edge Church • 12/13/09

Introduction:

Ephesians 4:15-16 – *The body builds itself up through love. We need the members to grow spiritually through love.*

Main Text: **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

Greek words used for **Love**: • Eros - Physical • Phileo - Emotional • Agapeo - Volitional

1. The Virtue of PATIENCE - 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love passive)

Definition: lenient, long on patience, slow to anger, tolerant of the weaknesses of others, forbears and puts up with wrongs done to self.

2. The Virtue of KINDNESS - 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love in action)

Definition: sweet to all, never insolent or rude, useful to all, does good to all, acts benevolently to all, generous to all, does not have a sarcastic or critical spirit.

3. The Virtue of NO ENVY - 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love in competition)

Definition: intensely resentful or jealous of someone else's success, position, or possessions to the degree of wishing them stripped of having it.

4. The Virtue of NO BRAGGING - 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love in profession)

Definition: to be a braggart is to parade oneself, to be puffed up about one's own achievements. Agape love, however, works then retires. Has no airs, is self-effacing, is more impressed with its own unworthiness than its own merit, is not anxious to impress, doesn't believe its own press, and doesn't seek to make an impression for personal gain.

Demonstration: **(Gateway Arch in St. Louis is 630 ft.)**

- Jesus tempted by Satan to throw himself off the temple [500-700 ft.] to flaunt his powers to the people (**Matthew. 4:5-7**)
- Jesus mostly worked hard at trying to keep people quiet about what he did for them (i.e. leper cleansed, deaf and mute man, Mt. of Transfiguration, parents of the dead girl).

Application:

- Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips (**Prov 27:2**)
- The crucible for silver & the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives (**Prov 27:21**)
- **1 Corinthians 13:1-4** – Paul addresses that the underlying motive for using the gifts should be *love*.
- **Matt. 7:1-18**- Pharisees paraded their praying, fasting, & giving to the poor...**DO IT ALL IN SECRET.**
- Bragging about past Christian victories, yet showing little or no fruit TODAY.
- Agape love is self-effacing, doesn't think its love is bestowing a favor upon someone, but rather that there is never a gift of love to be offered that is good enough.

5. The Virtue of NO PRIDE- 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love in hiding)

Definition: to be puffed up, conceited, inflated with pride, having an air of superiority over others, to believe in your own press, to press for your own ideas to be accepted because you cherish [feel superior in] your thoughts over others.

Demonstration:

- Jesus was not too proud to take on the form of a servant at the Last Supper (**Philippians 2:7; John 13:1-17**)
- James & John thought they were *worthy* to sit at Jesus right hand and left in his kingdom (**Mark 10:35-35**)
- The Pharisee felt superior to the tax-collector when at the temple praying (**Luke 18:9-14**)
- **Charles Spurgeon's** experience with an applicant to his Bible College was that a young man insisted on being immediately accepted to the school due to his [self-proclaimed] exceptional qualities, intelligence, and preaching abilities. Spurgeon graciously declined the privilege because their school didn't qualify to receive such a gifted man among such ordinary students and staff (Lectures to My Students – Pg. 36-37).

Application:

- In lowliness or humility of mind let each esteem others better than themselves (**Philippians 2:3-4**)
- Ways our pride can manifest: *in* pushing for position, our prayer life, our Bible knowledge, our holiness...our airs.
- We conquer our pride by: not believing our own press, honest confession to the Lord and others, and being more impressed with our own unworthiness than our merits.
- **Rom. 12:16** - Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
- Missionary to India, **William Carey** (began as a cobbler). Humbly corrected a rich aristocratic snob at a dinner party when he snidely made reference to Carey's trade as a shoemaker in his earlier years. "No, your lordship," Carey replied, "not a shoemaker, only a cobbler."
- **William Barclay:** *No one likes the "important" person. Man "dressed in a little brief authority" can be a sorry sight.*
- When giving suggestions and ideas to people in authority, let go of it and leave it in their hands to decide. The offense comes from pride when ideas are not acted upon (example-two elders: a lawyer and a CFO).
- Agape love gives w/o expectations of reciprocation or glory or praise. A man is tested by the *praise* he [doesn't] receive.

6. The Virtue of **NO RUDENESS** - 1 Corinthians 13:5 ~ (Love in **society**)

Definition: unmannerly behavior, graceless, discourteous, without charm, politeness, or tact, brutally blunt and frank with others.

Demonstration:

- **Matthew 12:15-21** – Jesus conquering through humble carefulness & tenderness with people.
- It is about being sensitive to the needs and emotions of others than your right to be yourself.
- It is to defer to and honor another above yourself.

Application:

- **Romans 13:9-10** – Love your neighbor as yourself, love does no harm to its neighbor.
- i.e. husbands to wives, parents to children, not being a “me-firster,” considering visitors, overly blunt in truth (no love).
- “Speaking the truth in love” (**Eph 4:15**) – “You cannot take a 40-ton truck of confrontation over a plywood bridge of love.”
- **William Barclay:** “There is a kind of Christianity which takes delight in being blunt and almost brutal. There is a strength in it but there is no winsomeness. Lightfoot of Durham said of...one of his students, ‘Let him go where he will, his face will be a sermon in itself.’ There is a graciousness in Christian love which never forgets that courtesy and tact and politeness are lovely things.”
- **Bill Hull,** author of “**The Complete Book of Discipleship,**” in response to a student’s question: *What has been your greatest sacrifice as a pastor?*

“I think it’s the discipline to treat certain people better than they deserve to be treated.” He goes on to say: “Some people should be told off, rebuked, and straightened out. But I find myself being careful how I treat them and holding my tongue. I let them shoot at me and accuse me and blame me for their problems. I let them hold me to a higher standard than they have for themselves. Sometimes I just don’t know if I can take it anymore. But then I realize that treating people better than they deserve *is* the gospel, the kingdom of God, the heart of Jesus, and the essence of love. I must deny myself the freedom to speak my mind and let people have it.” (pg. 122-123)

Consider practicing this exercise every morning this NEXT week with your name in the blank...

_____ is:

- **Patient:** *lenient, long on patience, slow to anger, tolerant of the weaknesses of others, forbears & puts up with wrongs done to him/her self.*
- **Kind:** *sweet to all, never insolent or rude, useful to all, does good to all, acts benevolently to all, generous to all, does not have a sarcastic or critical spirit.*
- **NOT Envious:** *not intensely resentful or jealous of someone else’s success, position, or possessions to the degree of wishing them stripped of having it.*
- **NOT a Braggart:** *not a parader, not puffed up about own achievements. Works then retires, has no airs, is self-effacing, more impressed with his/her own unworthiness than merit, not anxious to impress, doesn’t believe his/her own press, doesn’t seek to make an impression for personal gain.*
- **Humble:** *not puffed up, conceited, inflated with pride, doesn’t believe his/her own press, or have an air of superiority over others.*
- **NOT Rude:** *unmannerly in his/her behavior, graceless, discourteous, not without charm, politeness, or tact, not brutally blunt and frank with others.*

Scriptures in the Study:

Eph 4:15-16

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. **NIV**

1 Cor 13:1-8

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. **NIV**

Matt 4:5-7

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple [from the top to the bottom of the valley approximately 500-700 feet]. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written [about the coming Messiah]:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" **NIV**

Prov 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips. **NIV**

Prov 27:21 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives. **NIV**

Phil 2:7

[Jesus] stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men *and* was born a human being. **AMP**

John 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. **NIV**

Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." **NIV**

Phil 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit [like James & John], but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. **NIV**

Mark 10:35-45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **NIV**

Rom 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. **NIV**

Matt 12:15-21

Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, warning them not to tell who he was. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.

In his name the nations will put their hope." **NIV**

Rom 13:9-10

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. **NIV**