

Nine Virtues of Divine Love – 3
Dr. Jay Zinn • River's Edge Church • 12/20/09

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.
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.
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.
7. **The Virtue of NOT SELF-SEEKING - 1 Corinthians 13:5 ~ (Love in essence)**

Definition: to insist, demand its own way or rights. To seek its own profit, praise, or pleasure. Agape Love defers to others for their welfare or advantage.

Two types of people: 1) those who always insist on their way or rights
2) those who remember their responsibilities.

Demonstration:

- **Mark 14:32-40** – Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Not my will but yours be done.”
- The CFO versus the Lawyer
- Complainers versus Builders
- Those who seek to build only their own ministries/works than others.

Application:

- **1 Corinthians 9:1-23** – It is putting principle / responsibility / duty above personal rights.
- Home life ... spouse, parental, children.
- **Colossians 3:1-3**

8. **The Virtue of NOT QUICK-TEMPERED - 1 Corinthians 13:5 ~ (Love in disposition)**

Definition: easily offended or provoked, touchy, irritable, easily exasperated, resentful, flies off the handle, has temper-tantrums,

Demonstration:

- **Acts 15:36-40** – Paul and Barnabas depart company.
- Did Paul ever get over John Mark leaving them back in Perga?
- **Prov. 14:17** - A quick-tempered man does foolish things. NIV
- **Prov 14:29** - A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.
- **Titus 1:7** - Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be...not overbearing, not quick-tempered...

Application:

- **James 1:19-20** – Be quick to LISTEN, slow to speak, slow to become angry (control).
- People aren't listening to each other.
- Too quick to talk, have their own agenda.
- not willing to hear each other out.
- **Matthew 18:15** – If he listens to you, you have won him over, and your ill feeling is absolved.

9. The Virtue of **NOT LOGGING OFFENSES** - 1 *Corinthians 13:5* ~ (Love in **forgiveness**)

Definition: brood over wrongs, store up memory of any wrong, a ledger entry so as to not forget, to rehearse, to dwell on the past mistakes of others who have wronged you, makes negative judgment of a person's motives behind their actions.

Demonstration:

- **Jer. 31:33-34** – "Under the new covenant, God says he will forgive our wickedness and remember our sins no more.

Application:

- **Romans 13:8** – "let no debt remain outstanding except to love one another.
- **2 Cor. 5:19** – "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting men's sins against them.**"
- People can change in time if they love God and are teachable. (John Mark did and became useful to Paul).
- Unity is hindered in the church if we don't give people, leaders, and family that consideration.
- Don't *rehearse* it, *nurse* it, or *curse* it.

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.
- **NOT Self-Seeking:** insisting on own rights, not seeking its own profit, praise, or pleasure, but defers to others for their welfare or advantage.
- **NOT Quick-tempered:** easily offended or provoked, touchy, irritable, easily exasperated, resentful, flies off the handle.
- **NOT a Grudge-Holder:** brooder of wrongs, ledger-keeper, rehearser of sins, doesn't make negative judgments of a person's motives behind their actions.

Scriptures in this 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. **NIV**

Mark 14:32-36

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet **not what I will, but what you will.**" NIV

1 Cor 9:1-23

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. Don't we **have the right** to food and drink? Don't we **have the right** to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk? Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others **have this right** of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?

But **we did not use this right**. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast. Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and **not make use of my rights** in preaching it.

Though I am free and belong to no man, I **make myself a slave to everyone**, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. NIV

Col 3:1-3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For **you died**, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. NIV

Acts 15:36-41

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a **sharp disagreement** that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. NIV

James 1:19-21

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and **slow to become angry**, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. NIV