

LOVE

2 Peter 1: 5 – 11

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. LOVE is the quality in a Christian that seeks the good and welfare of all men, whether deserved or not.
 - a. In this way he becomes like God – John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.
2. Some things the New Testament says about the Christian's love:
 - a. We are to love our enemies – Matt. 5:44.
 - b. We are to “*walk in love*” – Eph. 5:2; 4: 32 – 5: 1.
 - c. Ours is a “*labor of love*” – I Thess. 1:3.
 - d. We are to speak the truth in love – Eph. 4:15.
 - e. We are to be “*rooted and grounded in love*” – Eph. 3:17.
3. Love is the prompting principle for all our acts as Christians.
4. God's love prompted the gift of Christ – I John 4: 9; John 3:16.
5. Love cannot exist long without acts.

I. LOVE ANALYZED IN I CORINTHIANS 13

- a. Love is PATIENT -- v. 4
 - i. “*Suffereth long . . .*” – v. 4
 - ii. It is that quality in man that does not succumb under suffering and great trial.
 - iii. Patient with the weaknesses of others – Gal. 6:1.
- b. Love is KIND – v. 4
 - i. Kindness is love at work, sympathy in action – Eph. 4:32.
 - ii. To be kind to God one must be kind to children of God – I Cor. 8:12; Acts 9:4; Matt. 25:40.
- c. Love is not JEALOUS – v. 4
 - i. “*Envieth not*”
 - ii. It is not made unhappy by the good fortunes of others.
 1. Joseph's brothers – Acts 7:9.
 2. Cain – Gen. 4: 4 – 8.
 3. Mark 15: 10 – delivered Christ for envy.
 - iii. Love rejoices at the happiness of others – Rom. 12:15; I Cor. 12:26.
- d. Love does not brag – v. 4
 - i. “*vaunteth not itself*”
 - ii. James 3:5
 - iii. Does not put itself forward to be noticed.
 - iv. Makes no display of itself – sound no trumpets – Matt. 6:2.
- e. Love is not ARROGANT—v. 4.
 - i. “*Is not puffed up*”
 - ii. Does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

- iii. Pride will ruin a person – I Tim. 3:6; Rom. 12:3.
 - iv. Humility is the way of real greatness – Matt. 20: 25 – 28.
- f. Love does not act unbecomingly – v. 5
 - i. *“Doth not behave itself unseemly”*
 - ii. The conduct of love is not unbecoming to a Christian.
 - iii. Has good manners and is not rude.
- g. Love does not pursue SELFISH ADVANTAGE.
 - i. *“Seeketh not her own”*
 - ii. Man is selfish who neglects the good of others – I Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:4.
 - iii. Love is satisfied only in profit and salvation of all – I Cor. 10: 33.
- h. Love is not “touchy” – v. 5
 - i. *“is not easily provoked”*
 - ii. Must control temper – James 1:19; Tit. 1:7.
- i. Does not take into account a wrong suffered.
 - i. *“Thinketh no evil”* – v. 5.
 - ii. Puts the best construction on motives and acts of others – gives benefit of doubt.
- j. Love stands opposed to all wrong doing – v. 6
 - i. *“Rejoiceth not in iniquity”* – v. 6
 - ii. *“Rejoiceth in the truth”*.

II. A SUMMARY – I Cor. 13: 7 – 8

- a. *“Beareth all things”* – not overcome by any.
- b. *“Believeth all things”* – not distrustful and suspicious.
- c. *“Hopeth all things”* – looks for improvement in the bad.
- d. *“Endureth all things”* – persecution and suffering.
- e. *“Never faileth”* – Eternal in nature.

CONCLUSION

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PATIENCE

2 Peter 1: 5 – 11

INTRODUCTION

1. This is another trait that must grace the life of a Christian.
2. This quality is lacking in many of our lives.

I. PATIENCE NEEDS TO BE CORRECTLY UNDERSTOOD

- a. Patience is a much-abused word.
 - i. Patience is not a non-resisting quiet spirit that is without complaint or protest, and that will submit to any sort of condition.
 - ii. Jesus was patient, but He would not tolerate the money-changers – John 2:14 – 17.
 - iii. God is a God of patience, but He will not tolerate sin.
 - iv. Do not mistake indifference and complacency for patience.
- b. Patience is the characteristic of a man who is unswerving from his deliberate purpose to serve God, and his loyalty to faith and piety, by even the greatest trials and sufferings – steadfastness; endurance; perseverance.
- c. In patience we possess our souls – Luke 21:19.
 - i. The man without patience does not have the stick-to-it quality necessary to succeed in living the Christian life.
 - ii. Without patience one becomes weary in well-doing – Gal. 6:9.

II. PATIENCE MUST BE LEARNED

- a. James 1: 2 – 4
- b. Temptation in this verse is not the idea of subduction and sin.
 - i. The idea is that of tests and trials that God allows to come upon His children to strengthen and purify them – Heb. 10: 32 – 39; 12: 7 – 11.
 - ii. God uses sorrows, disappointments, bodily afflictions, and financial losses to work for our good – Rom. 8: 28.
 - iii. Out of that which is bad, the Christian can see good come in his own life – James 1:5 – 6.
- c. Paul said, “*We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience*” -- Rom. 5: 3 – 5.
- d. Exhortations:
 - i. Matt. 5: 11- 12
 - ii. Acts 5:41
 - iii. 2 Cor. 7:4
 - iv. Heb. 10:34
 - v. 1 Pet. 4:12 – 16; 1 : 6 – 7

III. WHEREIN PATIENCE IS NEEDED

- a. In tribulation – Rom. 12:12
 - i. Some examples of patience in tribulation.
 - 1. Christ the greatest example – I Pet. 2: 21 – 23.
 - 2. The Thessalonians – I Thess. 2:14; 2 Thess. 1:4.
 - 3. The prophets cited by James – James 5: 10; Acts 7:52.
 - ii. In well-doing – Rom. 2: 7.
 - 1. Must not become weary – Gal. 6:9.
 - iii. In dealing with the disorderly – I Thess. 5:14.
 - iv. In the Christian race – Heb. 12:1.
 - v. In the vexations of life – 2 Pet. 2: 7 – 8.
 - vi. With regard to each other – Eph. 4:2.
 - vii. In waiting for reward – Rom.8:25.
 - 1. James gives proof that the Lord rewards patience – James 5: 7 – 11.
 - a. Husbandman – James 5:7.
 - b. Prophets of God – James 5:10.
 - c. Job – James 5:11.

IV. PATIENCE PRODUCES MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

- a. James 1:4; 5: 13 – 20.
- b. This completeness is reflected in concern for spiritual values.
- c. The Christian does what he is taught to do.
 - i. He prays in suffering and affliction – James 5:13a.
 - ii. He sings praise in joy – James 5:13.
 - iii. He calls upon persons qualified to encourage and comfort in weakness and weariness – James 5: 14 – 15.
 - iv. He confesses and prays for forgiveness when in SIN – James 5:16.
 - v. He prays for the welfare of his fellows – James 5: 16 – 18.
 - vi. He works for the salvation of others – James 5: 19 – 20.

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GODLINESS

I Peter 1: 5 – 11

INTRODUCTION

1. Godliness is another trait that graces the Christian's life.
2. We need to add this trait to our Christian personality.

I. THE WORD "GODLINESS" IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD

- a. We hear it defined sometimes as "god-like-ness".
 - i. Godlikeness is an adjective meaning: "resembling a god or God; having divinity".
 - ii. This does not represent the meaning of the noun "Godliness".
- b. By definition, Godliness is a synonym of piety.
 - i. Webster defines piety: "the state or quality of being godly".
 - ii. "Godly" means: pious, reverencing God and His character and laws.
 - iii. Thayer: "reverence; respect".

II. MANY CHRISTIANS ARE LACKING GODLINESS

- a. They do not understand what Godliness is.
 - i. Some think that gain is godliness – I Tim. 6:5.
- b. Many just have a "form" of Godliness – 2 Tim. 3:5.
 - i. They keep up the formalities of religion, but don't live as they should.

III. WAYS PEOPLE SHOW LACK OF GODLINESS

- a. By using God's name to swear by – James 5:12.
 - i. By using such words as "by golly", "gosh", "gee".
- b. By acting disrespectfully toward the church.
 - i. By forsaking the assemblies – Heb. 10:25.
 - ii. By failing to help carry on its program of work.
 - iii. By not doing personal work.
 - iv. By not giving as you should – I Cor. 16:2.
 - v. By not attending gospel meetings.
- c. By being irreverent in worship.
 - i. God's will on reverence in worship: Heb. 12:28; Psa. 89:7.
 - ii. How to be irreverent in worship:
 1. Talk during worship – not behaving in class.
 2. Playing with someone's child.
 3. Chewing Gum
 4. Coming in late and taking your seat while an act of worship is being engaged in.
 5. Having our mind off the Lord's Supper while partaking -- I Cor. 11: 27 – 29.
- d. By rejecting the Word of God as a Guide.
 - i. Those who think the church should entertain its members.

- ii. Those who think the church should do its work through human organizations.

IV. GODLINESS MUST BE LEARNED.

- a. We do not possess this trait by accident, it must be diligently developed in our lives.
 - i. We are to exercise ourselves to godliness – I Tim. 4: 7 – 8.
 - ii. It takes exercise to develop true piety as well as to develop muscles.
- b. Godliness should begin with teaching in the home.
 - i. Parents have the responsibility of bringing their children up in the nurture of the Lord – Eph. 6:4.
 - ii. Too many parents will let their children run wild rather than restrain them and teach them godliness.
 - 1. Eli did not restrain his sons – I Sam. 3:13.

CONCLUSION

Are you giving diligence to develop godliness in your life?

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BROTHERLY KINDNESS

2 Pet. 1:7

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Brotherly kindness is to grace the character of every true Christian.
2. Brotherly kindness is from the Greek word *philedelphis*; literally means “love of the brethren or love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren.
3. Brotherly kindness is enjoined upon every Christian:
 - a. “Love the brotherhood” – I Pet. 2:17.
 - b. “Let brotherly love continue” – Heb. 13:1.
 - c. “Be ye kind one to another” – Eph. 4:32.
 - d. Col. 3:12; John 13: 34 – 35.

I. HOW BROTHERLY KINDNESS MAY BE SHOWN.

- a. Through our “conversation” with one another.
 - i. Should speak kindly to each other.
 1. The law of kindness may be in the tongue – Prov. 31:26.
 2. A soft answer turneth away wrath – Prov. 15:1; Col. 4:6; Eph. 4: 31 – 32.
 3. Must not call brother “Raca” – Matt. 5:22.
 - ii. Through Sympathy
 1. Christians rejoice or suffer with each other – Rom. 12:15; I Cor. 12: 25 – 27; Heb. 13:3.
 2. Onesiphorus was kind to Paul – 2 Tim. 1: 16 – 18.
 3. Christ demonstrated compassion – Luke 7: 11 -15.
 - iii. Through assisting those in need:
 1. Christ taught the value of giving – Matt. 5:42; Acts 20:35.
 2. If a brother is in need, turn him not away – James 2:15 – 16; I John 3:17; Rom. 12:13; Matt. 25: 31 – 40.
 - iv. By restoring those who sin:
 1. Our friends are those who tell us our faults – Matt. 18:15.
 2. To show interest in restoring one is kindness – James 5: 19 – 20.
 3. Must be done in the spirit of meekness – Gal. 6:1.
 - v. By forgiveness:
 1. We must forgive even as God forgave -- Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12.
 2. Must forgive as often as asked – Luke 17:3 – 4.
 - vi. By practicing the Golden Rule:
 1. The golden rule given by Christ – Matt. 7:12.
 2. Does not say, “be as kind to others as they are to you”.
 3. To ascertain its meaning, change places with the other fellow.
 - vii. By doing good for evil:

1. Anyone can return good for good – Matt. 5: 46.
 2. Christians are to return good for evil – I Pet. 3: 8 – 9; Rom. 12: 17 – 21.
- viii. By respecting the conscience of others:
1. Must not make a stumbling block of our liberty – I Cor. 8:9; Rom. 14:13.
 2. Sacrifice our rights to avoid offending – Rom. 14:21; I Cor. 8:13.
 3. The gospel must no be sacrificed for anyone’s conscience.

CONCLUSION

1. Our actions toward our brethren will meet us at the Judgment – Matt. 25: 31 – 46; Heb. 6:10.
2. John 13: 34 – 35

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