

1Corinthians – Week 48

I. Review:

A. There are four types of love:

- i. Eros – it is a “getting” love.
 1. Emotionally driven: Associated with sexual love.
- ii. Stergo – it is a “caring” love.
 1. Emotionally driven: Associated with love for family or neighbor in need.
- iii. Philo – it is a “sharing” love
 1. Emotionally driven: Affection that is felt for those close to us.
- iv. Agape – a “giving” love.
 1. Christ-driven: It sacrifices itself for the benefit of others.
 2. It’s of a Divine nature: It is not of this world!

B. Agape defined: 1Cor. 13:4

- i. Agape’s response: Patient!
 1. The ability to endure hardship and inconvenience without complaint.
- ii. Agape’s action: Kindness
 1. Kindness involves availability, usefulness and care to anyone with a genuine need.
 2. The world shows kindness when it is convenient or as long as they are not heavily engaged in a job, a sport, a hobby or a cause but agape kindness remains active no matter what!
 3. Jesus always took the time to show kindness to all!

II. Continuation: Agape’s behavior...

A. 1Cor. 13:4b (ESV), “...*love does not envy...*”

- i. Envy (or jealousy) is a natural tendency; a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:19).
 1. Because of this, it is found everywhere, even in the Church.
 - a. A person can envy someone’s intelligence, wisdom or knowledge.
 - b. A person can envy someone’s ability to pray in public.
 - c. A person can envy someone’s family or friends.
 - d. A person can envy someone’s possessions or money.
 - e. A person can envy someone’s career or job.
 - f. Instead of being content with what one has, envy causes ill feelings towards those who have it “better.”
 - g. A person may even desired to be “envied”
 - i. They buy a certain product (car, home, clothing, etc.) so that they can display to others how rich they are.
 - ii. They keep company with certain people so that they can display how “better” they are.
 - iii. The evil of “*keeping up with the Jones*” was the yesterday’s fad, but today’s motto is “*Stay ahead of the Jones!*” – In other words, it’s not enough to have the same things as others, have MORE!
 - iv. The preacher spoke of this long ago...
 1. Eccl. 4:4 (ESV), “*Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man’s envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.*”
 2. Examples of how destructive envy can be:
 - a. Cain killed Able because he envied the favor Able gained in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 4:5)
 - b. King Saul wanted to kill David because he was envious of David’s popularity (1Sam. 18:6-9)
 - c. Envy drove the religious leaders to crucify Jesus (Mt. 27:18).

3. Eros can be envious!
 - a. It is a “getting” love; a “demanding” love.
 - b. It demands total possession, exclusive rights.
4. Stergo can be envious!
 - a. If a father sees another man showing fatherly care for his son, he may feel envy and try to obtain his son’s favor.
5. Philos can be envious!
 - a. If someone becomes a friend of its friend, it fears that the new person may steal its friend from it.
 - b. Children have this all the time. It’s called “sibling rivalry.”
6. Agape, however, does not envy!
 - a. It is content with what it has and it delights with what others have, even if it is more.
 - b. Paul brought this idea in the following passage:
 - i. 1Tim. 6:6-8 (ESV), “*Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment,⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*”
7. However, the Corinthians filled with envy and strife:
 - a. They were divided over who was the better teacher: Paul, Apollos or Cephas (cf. 1Cor. 3:1-5).
 - b. And they did other things that showed strife among them, like brothers taking brothers to court (1Cor. 6:1-8).

B. 1Cor. 13:4c (ESV), “...[love does not]...boast ...”

- i. Envy looks towards what others have whereas “boasting” looks towards what one has.
- ii. Being boastful refers to self-applause.
 1. A proud person has an elevated view himself and seeks praise from those who hear.
 2. A proud person wants others to see, hear, and acknowledge his accomplishments.
 3. When a boastful person walks into a room full of people, he says: “Here I am!”
 4. When Agape love walks into a room full of people, he says: “There you are!”
 - a. See the difference in focus? Who came first in each case?
 5. A boastful person makes a lousy friend, a terrible spouses and a horrible co-worker!
 6. But Agape love draws people with its humility and selflessness.
 7. Agape love realizes that whatever it has, it is a gift of God and that there is nothing in man of which to be proud.
 8. The Corinthians were boasting in men (cf. 1Cor. 3:21).

C. 1Cor. 13:4d-5a (ESV), “...[love] is not arrogant,⁵ or rude...”

i. Arrogant

1. KJV says it is not “*puffed up*”
2. An arrogant person has a certain “air” about him; he has his nose in the air.
3. His ideas are the best and are to be followed by everyone else.
4. Agape is not “inflated” – it does not have a big ego!
5. However, we learned in 1Cor. 8 that some of the Corinthians were being arrogant by using their Christian freedom to serve self rather than to build up others!
 - a. Their actions were causing other members to stumble (cf. 1Cor. 8:9-13).

ii. Rude

- 1. A rude person is disrespectful (problem with authority).**
- 2. A rude person is pushy.**
- 3. A rude person is inconsiderate.**
- 4. A rude person behaves badly.**
 - a. The Corinthians had divisions, jealousy, strife, immorality, lawsuits, etc.**
- 5. A rude person's speech is not gracious**
 - a. Col. 4:6 (ESV), "*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*"**
- 6. An example of rudeness vs. love...**
 - a. Consider Luke 7:36-50**
 - i. Simon neglected to provide the basic amenities to Jesus when he arrived at his home by:**
 - 1. Not providing water for his feet. However, the woman washed his feet with her tears.**
 - 2. Not giving him a welcome kiss. However, the woman had not stopped kissing his feet.**
 - 3. Not offering oil to anoint his head. However, the woman poured perfume on his feet.**
 - ii. Simon had expressed his rudeness in ways that dishonored Jesus as a guest.**
 - iii. However, the woman expressed her love in ways that honored Jesus for what he meant to her – Savior, Redeemer!**