

## 1Corinthians – Week 49

### I. Review: Agape’s supernatural behavior (1Cor. 13:4c-5a)

#### A. “...*love does not envy*...”

- i. Envy (or jealousy) is a natural tendency; a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:19).
- ii. Envy is not satisfied with what it has.
- iii. Envy can be destructive:
  1. Cain killed Able because of envy (Gen. 4:5)
  2. King Saul wanted to kill David because of envy (1Sam. 18:6-9)
  3. Envy drove the religious leaders to crucify Jesus (Mt. 27:18).
- iv. Agape is content with what it has and it delights with what others have, even if it is more.

#### B. “[*love does not*]...*boast* ...”

- i. Envy looks towards what others have whereas “boasting” looks towards what one has.
- ii. A proud person has an elevated view himself and seeks praise from those who hear.
- iii. 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.

#### C. “[*love*] is not arrogant,<sup>5</sup> or rude...”

- i. Arrogant
  1. KJV says it is not “*puffed up*”
  2. Agape is not “inflated” – it does not have a big ego!
- ii. Rude
  1. A rude person is disrespectful, pushy and inconsiderate.

### II. Continuation

#### A. 1Cor. 13:5b-d (ESV), “...*It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful*”

- i. Insist on its own way: selfish (a work of the flesh – Gal. 5:20)
  1. Some versions say “*it is not self-seeking*”
  2. Isaiah 53:6 says all have gone astray. What does it mean to go astray?
    - a. Isaiah says, “*we have turned—every one—to his own way*”
    - b. The world is self-seeking: We see this attitude everywhere.
    - c. The world seeks its own comfort and happiness even if it injures others.
      - i. You see this in politics, in religion, in corporations, etc.
  3. Agape does not seek its own comfort to the injury of others!
  4. Paul instructed the Corinthians in the following:
    - a. 1Cor. 10:24, 33 (ESV), “*Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor... just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.*”
      - i. Love seeks the good of his neighbor!
      - ii. Even if that neighbor is an enemy!
- ii. Irritable: given to outbursts (another work of the flesh – Gal. 5:20)
  1. A description of an irritable person:
    - a. He easily loses his cool.
    - b. He is quick to do something that will not promote edification.
    - c. He has a chip on his shoulder, looking for some small offense so he can ventilate his anger.
  2. The Corinthians:
    - a. were provoked enough to take each other to court (1Cor. 6)
    - b. were provoked enough to divorce their spouses (1Cor. 7)
    - c. were provoked enough to go ahead with the Lord’s Supper without waiting for others to arrive (1Cor. 11)
  3. Agape is not easily angered, especially by petty things.
  4. Agape is slow to speak, slow to get angry and quick to listen (cf. James 1:19).

iii. Resentful:

1. A resentful person is one who keeps a record of wrongs.
  - a. He is not a person of true reconciliation!
  - b. He does not easily forgive!
  - c. Love is all about reconciliation!
2. Describing His followers, Jesus said, blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy (Mt. 5:7).

B. 1Cor. 13:6 (ESV), *“it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth”*

i. The world rejoices in wrongdoing when they hear malicious reports of others they don't like:

1. The world loves it when preachers morally fall!
2. The world loves it when a politician's tainted past is dug up.
3. Here are some warning signs if we are rejoicing of wrongdoing:
  - a. When a fellow employee you dislike loses his job and you say, *“He deserves it.”* Are you thinking of his soul? His welfare?
  - b. When you are fired and the company that fired you goes bankrupt and you say, *“That's what they get for treating me unfairly!”*
  - c. When a disciple whom you find hard to love is dis-fellowshipped and you say, *“Thank God he is gone!”*
  - d. Such attitude shows pride and vengeance.
  - e. For this reason, the Lord warns...
    - i. Proverbs 24:17 (ESV), *“Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles”*
  - f. Even when the wicked die, should be delight in that? Consider what the Lord says...
    - i. Ezekiel 18:23, 32 (ESV), *“Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?...For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live!”*

ii. The world rejoices in wrongdoing by approving that which is considered sinful (ex. Homosexuality, drunkenness, unmarried couples living together, etc.)

1. Paul puts it in this manner:

- a. Romans 1:29-32 (ESV), *“They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”*

iii. Secular entertainment offers a good illustration of verse 6:

1. Many movies are made to get others to take pleasure in that which is not righteous.
2. Some are more evident, like the despised villain who dies a violent death!
  - a. No, we don't want him jailed, but killed in a violent way!
3. Some are more subtle, like the woman who leaves her calloused and insensitive husband and falls in love with a caring man.
  - a. We feel that the woman deserved happiness while her insensitive husband deserved divorce!
  - b. However, there were no biblical grounds for divorce!
  - c. So, in God's eyes, adultery was committed!
  - d. But we are left feeling joyful for the woman and her new husband.

**iv. A danger of this even in the church**

- 1. Suppose a member has a position that another person envies.**
- 2. Then someone goes to that person and gossips about that member.**
- 3. He gladly listens because it would be a pleasure to morally assassinate that member!**
- 4. Then that envious person passes that rumor along to others.**
- 5. And since he wants to appear holy and righteous, he shares that rumor as a “concern” or “prayer request.”**
- 6. In the Lord’s eyes, that person is rejoicing in that which is deemed unrighteous!**
- 7. If anything, that person, if he truly loved with agape love would have:**
  - a. Repented of his envious thoughts.**
  - b. Would have reprimanded the gossip and encouraged him to address the person of whom he speaks.**

**v. Agape does not rejoice with that which is wrong!**

- 1. Whether that wrong is in the form of gossip, violence, misbehavior, bad reports, condemnation or even false doctrines!**
- 2. Agape rejoices in that which is true and good, especially to that which conforms to God’s Word!**