

The Church At Corinth - When Love is Missing

We talk much about love. However, we don't often define what we mean. The word we use to describe our love of acquaintances and light friends is the same word we use to describe our love of our family and closest friends. When we talk about the love of God and the love of the Christian toward both the saved and the lost, we must be clear about what love we are talking about.

Scripture(s): 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8 (and passages from 1 & 2 Corinthians)

Remember this - It is when our love reflects the love of God that we find victory over the sin and _____ that so permeates life.

I. The first struggle that Christ-love will continually fight to overcome in the Christian's life is our tendency to play favorites in which Christians we _____. Playing favorites in who we love or appreciate in the Christian life is neither Christ-love nor _____-led. We are practicing Christ-love as we seek to appreciate and value what each person brings to the _____.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13; (1 Corinthians 3:1-4; 1 Corinthians 11:17-22)

II. The second struggle that Christ-love will continually fight to overcome in the Christian's life is the twin pull of unexamined _____ and reactionary retribution. We are tempted to close our eyes at sin until it personally _____ us rather than stepping in with Christ-love to minister without haughtiness or cruelty. We need a _____ humility when it comes to helping one another in our shared struggle to live out Christ-love.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 ¹ It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. ² You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. (2 Corinthians 2:5-8;

2 Corinthians 4:1-11)

III. The third struggle that Christ-love will continually fight to overcome in the Christian's life is our preoccupation with what we '_____. Rights, privileges, preferences, and what we deserve are all _____ to lived-out Christ-love. Christ-love cares about _____ instead of things, preferences, or even rights.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ¹ Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies... ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. ¹² And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 1 Corinthians 10:23-24; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33)

What should I do?

1. Discover anew the value in those Christians that you often _____ or don't appreciate.
2. Care enough about the people in your life to offer to _____ them in their struggles without haughtiness or overzealous judgment.
3. Be the person who loves people in Jesus so much that your preferences and likes are _____ an obstacle to that love.

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"Heaven Came Down" 438

"Christ Our Hope in Life
and Death"

"He Is Exalted"

* Pastoral Prayer & Time in
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"The Savior Is Waiting" 321