

Lord, Change My Attitude To Love

16 August, 2009



Biblical truths or meanings for Love:

1. Three Greek words in scripture for love
 - A. [Eros – Sensual Love \(Physical Love\)](#)
 - B. [Phileo – Brotherly Love \(Love another person\)](#)
 - C. [Agape – Selfless Love \(Sacrificial Love\)](#)
2. Three impressive areas of “Spiritual Achievements” – But without love, they are:
 - A. [1 Cor 13:1 Speak in tongues](#) (v1) [like clanging cymbals](#)
 - B. [1 Cor 13:2 Gift of prophecy](#) (v2) [nothing](#)
 - C. [1 Cor 13:3 Give all my possessions](#) (v3) [worthless](#)
3. In the context of our study love is balance between [affection](#) and [truth](#) .
4. All [truth](#) and no love is [brutality](#) .
5. The rest of 1 Cor 13 can be summarized in the following statements:
 - On the MAJORS – [Take action](#)
 - On the MINORS – [Show acceptance](#)
 - In ALL THINGS – [Display love](#)
6. Major things where love means taking action – [Critical path](#) , [Chronic problem](#) , [Close proximity](#) .
7. Minor issues are [Personal preference](#) , such as [Musical taste](#) , [Personality differences](#) , [Cultural differences](#) .

Discussion Questions

1. Where do we get the power to love people the way God wants us to love them?

By looking at God's word and determine to obey what it says. Live out our understanding of how to love a person and how to get victory over a critical, negative kind of attitude. See John 13:35

2. Why is love considered 'the greatest of these'? Read 1 Cor 13:13

Compare vis-à-vis Love: is a debt worth having (Rom 13:8); keeps us thinking clearly (2 Cor 5:13-14); binds relationship together (Col 2:2); keeps us fervent in our love (1 Pet 4:8); gives access to distant relationship (Gal 5:13)

3. In what ways is love most often self-centered?

If you don't love people you're talking to; if you don't have a broken heart for them; If you go to the person with the truth but not having been on our knees for them or when we are IMPATIENT, UNKIND, JEALOUS, ARROGANT, RUDE

4. What does agape love look like?

Read 1 Cor 13:5 Love is not selfish; not short tempered, doesn't keep accounts of wrongs suffered, finds no pleasure in wrongdoing; never fails; rejoices with the truth; bears with someone; believes all things; hopes all things.

5. What do you do when an issue barge into your relationship?

Check if the issue is MAJOR or MINOR. If Major: Is this critical path? Is the problem chronic? Does your proximity imply responsibility? If Minor: personal differences?

6. Cite example of someone you love and why you love him or her. Then share situations from the past week when you tried to implement agape you-before-me love.

Personal – Skip if no one is willing to share

Let's Talk Solution:

1. Am I a loving person? Has anyone highlighted this to you?

Personal – Skip if no one is willing to share. Touch on Gary Chapman – The Five Love Languages (Word of Affirmation; Quality Time; Receiving Gifts; Acts of Service, and Physical Touch)

2. Am I seeing the benefits of love my life?

Do the relationships in your life evidence that love is pouring forth from me upon the people around me? Remember all that love is. Love that is shown on the major and minor issues. Nobody should pretend to have all the answers.

3. Are you choosing love over criticism moment by moment? Attitudes are patterns of thinking formed over a period of time. Am I choosing love moment by moment?

We have to ask God to forgive our negative, critical, faultfinding ways. Seek God to give us a heart to love people and bear with them, to speak the truth when it's needed, whatever the cost. Also to have a heart to accept others.

LORD, CHANGE MY ATTITUDE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Objective:

To substitute the practice of love in situations where you habitually criticise

Say it in a sentence: *The only attitude big enough to replace a critical attitude is an attitude of love.*

#1 Key Passage: 1 Cor 13:1-8a

- There are 16 chapters in the book of 1 Cor
- Paul addresses Church Problems (1-6:20)
- Paul addresses Church Questions (7:1-16:24)
- The Poem of Love (13:1-13) – Love to guide all we do. We have different gifts, abilities, likes, dislikes – but we are all called, without exception, to love.

#1 Key Passage: 1 Cor 13:1-8a

- Why is the placement of this love chapter so important?
- Three primary words for “love” in Greek
 - ✓ Eros – Sensual Love (Physical Love)
 - ✓ Phileo – Brotherly Love (Love another person)
 - ✓ Agape – Selfless Love (Sacrificial Love)

#2 When Love Is Missing

- Three impressive areas of “Spiritual Achievements”
 - ✓ 1 Cor 13:1 Speak in tongues
 - ✓ 1 Cor 13:2 Gift of prophecy
 - ✓ 1 Cor 13:3 Give all my possessions
- All truth and no love is brutality
- Love is a balance between affection & truth
- Without love, the ‘Spiritual Achievements’ are – like clanging cymbals; nothing, worthless.

#3 The Paradigm Shift

- A paradigm shift occurs when you have been looking at something one way for a long time that you think that’s the only way it is.
- Truth is a part of love and that you’re not really loving if speaking truth is not part of the equation.
- The rest of 1 Cor 13 can be summarized in the following statements:

- ✓ On the **MAJORS – TAKE ACTION**
- ✓ On the **MINORS – SHOW ACCEPTANCE**
- ✓ In **ALL THINGS – DISPLAY LOVE**
- What are major things where love means taking action?
 - ✓ *Is it a critical path?* Doctrinal error, marital unfaithfulness, criminal act, abusive behavior.
 - ✓ *Is the problem chronic?* Bad behavioral patterns
 - ✓ *Does your proximity imply responsibility?* Close proximity – friends or family
- What are minor issues?
 - Personal preferences. Examples:
 - ✓ *Musical taste*
 - ✓ *Personality differences*
 - ✓ *Cultural differences*

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

- At 40th PPCOC Anniversary Celebrations, 11 men made a commitment to serve. We have withstood six years because God has blessed PPCOC with members that really know how to love one another.
- The promise is love will never fail – not at work, at home, at church. Love will never fail to accomplish God's highest and best purposes. Love never fails. Never!