

Scripture

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Look for our event!





Love

“Character Counts” - Week Two

1/10/2021

Colossians 3:14 -

Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

I. Primacy of Love

I Corinthians 13:1-3 -

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

II. Definition of Love

I John 3:16-18 -

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

III. Demonstration of Love

I John 4:20-21 -

If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

III. Demonstration of Love

I Peter 1:22 -

Love one another deeply, from the heart.

Romans 12:10 -

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

IV. Source of Love



I John 4:7-10, 19 -

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins...We love because He first loved us.

V. Effect of Love

John 13:34-35 -

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

“Church” is not an event. It is people—people whom God calls us to love. What is more, it is in a very important sense an involuntary community of people: we don’t choose our brothers and sisters—God does. And sometimes (oftentimes) those people are not terribly compatible with us—not the people we would choose to hang out with. But it is this very incompatibility that is so important, for at least two reasons. First, learning to love the people...

I don't like is by far the best way to learn how to love (it's easy to love people I happen to like).
Second, the church is supposed to be a sociological miracle—a demonstration that Jesus has died and risen to create a new humanity composed of all sorts of people.

~**Tim Challies, The Next Story**

What makes the church both a mystery and a magnet to the world is when we love in this way, God's way. This love makes us relevant. Its absence makes us irrelevant, regardless of whatever else we're doing. Question: is the love in your church such that people in the world and of the world would be willing to forsake all other loves just to know this love? Would they give up their addictions, their diversions, their compromises, their resentments, because the...

love your church has is better and truer and deeper than anything they've found anywhere else? If yes, your church is relevant to the world. If no, it's irrelevant.

**~Mark Buchanan,
Your Church Is Too Safe**