

Word of Life Christian Learning Center

Sermon NOTES

The Behavior of Love

BEHAVIOR - PERFORMANCE, CONDUCT, DEEDS, ACTIVITIES, MANNERS

Agape defined

LET'S FIRST LOOK AT WHAT **AGAPE** (LOVE) IS NOT!!!

Unlike our English love, it never refers to romantic or sexual love, for which **eros** was used, and which does not appear in the New Testament.

Nor does it refer to **mere sentiment, a pleasant feeling** about something or someone.

It does not mean **close friendship or brotherly love**, for which **philia** is used.

Nor does **agape** mean charity which is associated only with giving to the needy.

NOW, LET'S LOOK AT WHAT AGAPE (LOVE) IS!!!!!!!

- Love is **sacrificial** – first and foremost
- It is **sacrifice of self for the sake of others**, even for others who may care nothing at all for you and who may even hate you.
- It is **NOT A FEELING** but a **determined act of will**, which results in **determined acts of self-giving**.
- Love is the **willing desire to put the welfare of others above our own**.

Philippians 2:3

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

- **It leaves no place for pride, vanity, arrogance, self-seeking, or self-glory.**
- **It is an act of choice which we are commanded to exercise even on behalf of our enemies:**

Matthew 5:44-45

44 "But I say to you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Romans 5:10

10 **For if while we were enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Ephesians 2:4-7

4 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of **His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead** in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

THE SUPREME MEASURE AND EXAMPLE OF AGAPE LOVE IS GOD'S LOVE. LOOK AT.....

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life

Rom 5:8

8 But God **demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**

SLIDE

demonstrates - - **to show, to prove, to establish** [achieve permanent acceptance or recognition; show (something) to be true or certain], **to exhibit; to makes good; to present in its true and unmistakable character**

this verb is in the present tense - God continuously establishes His love in that the death of Christ remains as its most striking manifestation.

1 John 3:16

16 **We know love by this**, that **He laid down His life** for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:9-11

9 **By this the love of God** was manifested in us, that **God has sent** His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us** and **sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.

LET'S NOW TAKE A LOOK AT.....**HOW LOVE BEHAVES****HOW LOVE PERFORMS!!!!****THE MANNERS OF LOVE**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails;

Love is patient

Verse 4

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, Love is patient – *makrothumia* – *makros* – long, long time; a long duration of time; can also pertain to being far from some point of reference; and *thumos* – carries the sense of strong passion. A "tumultuous welling up of the whole spirit;" a mighty emotion which seizes and moves the whole inner man. Schmidt

Thymos - an intense, passionate desire of an overwhelming and possibly destructive character - 'intense desire, overwhelming passion.

Louw and Nida

Thymos - A state of intense anger, with the implication of passionate outbursts - 'anger, fury, wrath, rage.'

Louw and Nida

long-suffering, long-tempered, patience is the restraint of the soul from yielding to passion, especially the passion of "anger." Schmidt

long-suffering, long-tempered, patience is the control of the wrath that easily boils over. Exegetical dictionary

ONCE WE UNDERSTAND THIS COMPOUND WORD, WE ARE NOW READY TO DEFINE IT FURTHER!!!!!!

makrothumia - to bear the offences and injuries of others; to be **mild** and **slow** in avenging; slow to anger, slow to punish.

IT FURTHER MEANS –bearing provocation, annoyance, misfortune, delay, hardship, pain, etc., with fortitude, strength, courage, determination, endurance, and calm, composed....

Patience is a person's ability to wait something out or endure something tedious, without getting riled up.

Patience is enduring difficulties while restraining anger!!!

Having *patience* means you can remain calm, even when you've been waiting forever or dealing with something painstakingly slow or trying to teach someone how to do something and they just don't get it.

This attribute is used almost exclusively in the N.T. of being patient with **injurious or provoking people**, rather than with circumstances or events.

PATIENCE NEVER RETALIATES

Scriptures on patience

PATIENCE IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

OUR WALK IS TO BE A WALK OF PATIENCE

Eph 4:1-3

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called**, **2** with all humility and gentleness, **with patience, showing tolerance** for one another **in love**, **3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

PASTORS ARE TO PREACH WITH GREAT PATIENCE

2 Timothy 4:2-3

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with **great patience** and instruction. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

PASTORS ARE TO EXERCISE PATIENCE WHEN WRONGED

2 Tim 2:24-26

24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, **patient when wronged**, **25** with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

PASTORS ARE TO MODEL, BE AN EXAMPLE, DEMONSTRATE, DISPLAY PATIENCE

2 Timothy 3:10

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, **patience**, love, perseverance,

COMMENTARY

One of Abraham Lincoln's earliest political enemies was Edwin M. Stanton.

He called Lincoln a "low cunning clown" and "the original gorilla."

"It was ridiculous for people to go to Africa to see a gorilla," he would say, "when they could find one easily in Springfield, Illinois."

Lincoln never responded to the slander, but when, as president, he needed a secretary of war, he chose Stanton.

When his incredulous friends asked why, Lincoln replied, "Because he is the best man."

Years later, as the slain president's body lay in state, Stanton looked into the coffin and said through his tears, "There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen." His animosity was finally broken by Lincoln's long-suffering, nonretaliatory spirit. Patient love won out.

Patience demonstrated by God

COMMENTARY

Since Adam and Eve first disobeyed Him, God has been continually wronged and rejected by those He made in His own image.

He was rejected and scorned by His chosen people, through whom he gave the revelation of His Word, "the oracles of God" **Rom 3:2**.

Yet through the thousands of years, the eternal God has been eternally long-suffering.

If the holy Creator is so infinitely patient with His rebellious creatures, how much more should His unholy creatures be patient with each other?

Exodus 34:6

6 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

Ps 78:38-39

38 But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them;

And often **He restrained His anger**

And **did not arouse all His wrath**.

39 Thus He remembered that they were but flesh,

A wind that passes and does not return.

Romans 9:22

22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with **much patience vessels of wrath** prepared for destruction?

1 Peter 3:20

20 who once were disobedient, when the **patience of God** kept waiting in the days of Noah Gen 6:3, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

Genesis 6:3

3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be **one hundred and twenty years**."

2 Peter 3:1-3

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, **2** that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

The Coming Day of the Lord

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,

6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but **is patient toward you**, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

BACK TO FIRST CORINTHIANS 13:4

love is kind

Verse 4 cont'd

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

kind – to do that which is **beneficial, useful** and **needed** to advantage another; to be kind means to be useful in serving another and doing it graciously; kindness is **active** goodwill.

Kindness doesn't only **feel** generous, it **is** generous.

It not only **desires** others' welfare, but **works** towards it.

Kindness means to display oneself as useful; to serve someone with the purpose of helping them in a way that gives them an advantage [gain]; to be helpful and supportive; to provide something beneficial for someone; to do good to and for the offender.

The idea is not so much a **sweet attitude**, the idea is not so much a **friendly disposition**.

The idea, rather, is that even though one is injured, even though one is mistreated, even though one is hurt or harmed, **usefulness is rendered on behalf of the offender - deeds of kindness done that are useful to that person who has offended.**

Kindness commanded AND IN ACTION

Prov 25:21-22

21 If your enemy is hungry, **give him food to eat;**

And if he is thirsty, **give him water to drink;**

22 For you will heap burning coals on his head,

And the Lord will reward you.

Luke 6:35-38

35 "But love your enemies, and do good [...and be kind... *THIS IS HOW YOU SHOW KINDNESS***...to do good; to do something which profits others to show oneself beneficent, to do some one a favor, to benefit, 2. to do well; to do right], and lend, ***EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN*** [the spirit in which we are to do good]; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind notice "kind" is used as a synonym of "good" to ungrateful and evil men. 36 "Be merciful [show compassion; to be sympathetic**

towards; 'to show one's heart toward,' 'to feel in one's stomach for,' 'to have one's heart go out toward,' 'to treat as a loving child; **the feeling which is moved to pain at another's suffering; to show kindness or concern for someone in serious need just as your Father is merciful.**

37 "Do not judge - to form an opinion **rashly** [hastily, impulsively, recklessly, thoughtlessly, foolishly, suddenly, carelessly, ill-advisedly] **unfairly** [dishonorably, fraudulently, bigotedly, discriminatorily, incorrectly, wrongfully] and with **prejudice** [bias, preconception, prejudgment] concerning another's behavior and with gavel dropping certainty leap to a harsh conclusion concerning their behavior.

Jesus does not mean that we are not to form opinions, but not to form them rashly, unfairly and with prejudice **and you will not be judged; and do not condemn** [to pronounce guilty], **and you will not be condemned ; pardon, and you will be pardoned.** **38 "Give,** and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Matthew 5:43-45

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' **44** "But I say to you, **love** your enemies and **pray** for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for [the **kindness of God** displayed towards all mankind] **He causes His** the sun belongs to Him **sun to rise** on the evil and the good, and **sends rain** on the righteous and the unrighteous.

46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect [still is the standard regardless of our inability to obey this command].

Kindness demonstrated by God

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you think lightly of the **riches of** His kindness [that which GOD does that is beneficial and useful and needed to advantage another] and tolerance and **patience**, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance [*by pointing out your sin*]?

Titus 3:4-6

4 But when the **kindness of God our Savior** and His love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

1 Peter 2:2-3

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, **3** if you have **tasted** [experienced] **the kindness of the Lord.**

Ps 34:8

**8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

Matthew 11:29-30

29 "Take My yoke upon you [*submit to me*] and learn from Me [*the purpose of submitting*], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

30 "For My yoke is easy [*kind, beneficial, useful, needed*] and My burden is light [*not heavy, burdensome, easy to bear*]."

BACK TO 1 COR 13

is not jealous

Verse 4 cont'd

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

Jealous – The root meaning is "to have a strong desire;" we get the term zeal from this.

It is used both favorably and unfavorably in Scripture.

Here it is used unfavorably!!

SLIDE TO NOTES ON GODLY JEALOUSY

LOOK BACK AT...

1 Corinthians 12:31

31 But **earnestly desire** [one word; same as in **1 Cor 13:4** envy/jealous] the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way [*which is the way of LOVE.*]

Because the Greek **indicative** [*states a fact*] and **imperative** [*gives a command*] **forms are identical**, the first half of the verse could be translated, "**But you earnestly desire the greater gifts.** JMAC

ENVY DEFINED

Envy is to have a spirit of dissatisfaction with, and opposition to, the prosperity and happiness of others **as compared with our own.**

The thing that the envious person is opposed to, and dislikes, is the **comparative superiority** of the state of **honor**, or **prosperity** or **happiness**, that another may enjoy, **over that which he possesses.**

And this spirit is especially called envy, when we dislike and are opposed to another's honor or prosperity, because, in general, it is **greater than our own**, or because, in particular, they have some honor or enjoyment that **we have not.**

Jonathon Edwards, "Charity and its fruits"

NOTICE THE TWO FORMS/types OF JEALOUSY, OR ENVY.

One type says, "*I want what they have.*"

If your neighbor has a better car than you do, you want it.

If your neighbor is praised for something they did, you want the same or more for yourself.

The second kind/type says, "Not only do I want what they have, but *I wish they didn't have what they have!*"

In other words, I am opposed to them having the **honor**, or **prosperity** or **happiness.**

THIS SECOND TYPE IS A MORE MALIGNANT FORM ENVY/JEALOUSY

FOR THE RECORD.....

When love sees someone who is popular and admired, successful, beautiful/pretty, or talented and brilliant.....

....How does love respond?

LOVE is glad for them and rejoices with them.....never jealous or envious.

Prov 27:4

**4 Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood,
But who can stand before jealousy?**

COMMENTARY – Keil and Delitzsch

Let one imagine the blind, relentless rage of extreme....irritation, a boiling over of anger like a water-flood, which bears everything down along with it....

*-these paroxysms [these outbursts] of wrath do not usually continue long, and it is possible to appease them; **but jealousy** is a passion that not only rages, but reckons calmly; it incessantly ferments [to be in a state of intense agitation commotion, turmoil, unrest, turbulence] through the mind, and when it breaks forth, he perishes irretrievably who is its object.*

Fleischer generalizes this idea: "enmity proceeding from hatred, envy, or jealousy, it is difficult or altogether impossible to withstand, since it puts into operation all means, both secretly and openly, to injure the enemy."

LET'S LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES OF THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF JEALOUSY!!!

EVE

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! **5** "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Jealousy is not a moderate or harmless sin. It was Eve's **jealousy** of God, **sparked by her pride**, to which Satan successfully appealed. She wanted to be like God, to have what He has and to know what He knows.

Jealousy was an integral part of that first great sin, from which all other sin has descended. Jma

CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:1-10

1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord." **2** Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **3** So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. **4** Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; **5** but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. **6** Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? By this God gave him to understand that his look was indicative of evil thoughts and intentions; for the lifting up of the countenance, i.e., a free, open look, is the mark of a good conscience

7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Sin is personified as a wild beast, lurking at the door of the **human heart**, and eagerly desiring to devour his soul.

The phrase, if you do well - to make good, signifies here not good action, the performance of good in work and deed, but making the disposition good, i.e., **directing the heart to what is good.** KEIL AND DELITZSCH

JEALOUSY SPARKED BY PRIDE LEADS TO MURDER

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" **10** He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Gen 37:1-11

1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan. **2** These are the records of the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. **3** Now Israel

loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. **4** His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they **hated him** and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

5 Then Joseph **had a dream**, and when he told it to his brothers, they **hated him even more.** **6** He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; **7** for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." **8** Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So **they hated him even more** for his dreams and for his words.

9 Now he had **still another dream**, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." **10** He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" **11** His brothers were **jealous** [the root of their hatred] of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

SKIP TO VERSE 18 - (the result of their jealousy)

18 When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him **to put him to death.** **19** They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer! **20** "Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' **Then let us see what will become of his dreams!"**

SOLOMON'S RULING OF DISPUTED CHILD**1 Kings 3:16-27**

16 Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him. **17** The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. **18** "It happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house. **19** "This woman's son died in the night, because she lay on it. **20** "So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom. **21** "When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne." **22** Then the other woman said, "No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." But the first woman said, "No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king. **23** Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'" **24** The king said, "Get me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. **25** The king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." **26** Then the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him!" **27** Then the king said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother."

LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD**Matthew 20:1-16**

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. **2** "When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. **3** "And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace; **4** and to those he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And so they went. **5** "Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. **6** "And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day long?' **7** "They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' **8** "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.' **9** "When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. **10** "When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. **11** "When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, **12** saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.' **13** "But he answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? **14** 'Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this

last man the same as to you. **15** 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?' **16** "So the last shall be first, and the first last."

JESUS AND THE PHARISEES

WHY DID THE PHARISEES HATE JESUS?

BEFORE JESUS CAME ON THE SCENE, THE PHARISEES ENJOYED THE HIGHEST STATUS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

ALONG WITH THAT, THEY HAD THE UNIVERSAL RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF THEIR COMMUNITY FOR THEIR PERSONAL DEVOTION AND RIGHTEOUSNES/UPRIGGHTNESS

THEY WERE CONSIDERED THE PARAGON, MODEL, ARCHETYPE, IDEAL, SHINING EXAMPLE OF VIRTUE

"WHEN TRUE VIRTUE INCARNATE EMERGED, AND THE AUTHENTIC FIGURE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS APPEARED, WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS IS THAT THE TRUTH REVEALS THE COUNTERFEIT!!!!

JESUS SIMPLY SHOWED THEM UP!

HE SHOWED THEM TO BE WHAT THEY WERE, AND THEY HATED HIM WITH A FIERCE HATRED BECAUSE OF HIS EXCELLENCY"

THE ABSOLUTE CURE FOR JEALOUSY/ENVY

Phil 4:11-13

11 Not that I speak from want, for I have **learned to be content** in **whatever circumstances** I am. **12** I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance **I have learned the secret** of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. **13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, **being content** with what you have [what do you have?]; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," **6** so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

BACK TO 1 COR 13

love does not brag

Verse 4 cont'd

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

BELIEVERS WHO ARE WALKING IN LOVE, WHEN THEY EXPERIENCE SUCCESS, THEY DO NOT BOAST/FLAUNT IT BEFORE OTHERS

C. S. Lewis [noted Christian author] called bragging "**the utmost evil.**" It is the epitome of pride, which is the root sin of all sins. Bragging puts ourselves first. **Everyone else, including God,**

must therefore be **of less importance** to us. It is impossible to build ourselves up without putting others down. When we brag, we can be "up" only if others are "down."

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE BRAGGART IS TO SOUND HIS OWN HORN FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING OTHERS FEEL INFERIOR

bragging defined- to praise oneself excessively; to sound one's own praises; to parade/flaunt one's own knowledge, abilities, gifts and or accomplishments, real or imagined.

The braggart also tends to be arrogant and pretentious and engages in "impotent chatter."

Jmac

Bragging is the other side of **jealousy**.

Jealousy is wanting what someone else has.

Bragging is trying to make others jealous of what we have.

Jealousy puts others down;

bragging builds us up.

The **church at Corinth**, unfortunately, majored in this sin.

Speaking in tongues was especially the gift that was paraded and flaunted in front of others.

LOOK AT.....

1 Corinthians 4:6

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied [figures of speech] to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to **exceed what is written** [see note below], so that no one of you will become **arrogant** in behalf of one against the other.

COMMENTARY

God's faithful servants are to receive proper honor and respect. We are to.....

1 Thessalonians 5:12

12 But we request of you, brethren, that you **appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,**

1 Timothy 5:17

17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

The commentator goes on to warn.....

But they are to be honored only within such bounds of Scripture.

Godly respect turns into **ungodly exaltation** when we exceed what is written.

When **loving gratitude and legitimate loyalty** are **contaminated with pride and conceit**, Christ's church is fractured and weakened.

What **God intends** as a means of unity **Satan turns** into a means of division.

VERSE 7 OF 1 COR 4

7 For who regards you as superior? [Why do you think you are above other believers in the church? Why do you think your group is better than any other? You are made of the same stuff they are and have been redeemed by the same Lord. You are no better. You have nothing to boast

of."] What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you **boast** as if you had not received it?

TURN TO.....

1 Cor 14:26-33 concerning tongues and other gifts.....

26 What is the outcome then [what is the right course?], brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. **27** If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; **28** but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. SKIP TO...

33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

THE CURE FOR BRAGGING/BOASTING

EASY, PRAY THIS PRAYER...

Charles G Trumbull [noted Christian author and journalist] once prayed: "God, if you will give me the strength, every time I have the opportunity to introduce the topic of conversation it will always be Jesus Christ."

Adam Clarke's Commentary

LOVE does not **set itself forward-does not desire to be noticed or applauded**; but wishes that God may be all in all.

We need to understand that there is only **one subject** that is **truly worth** talking about.

LOOK AT.....

Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man **boast** of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man **boast** of his might, let not a rich man **boast** of his riches;

24 but let him who boasts **boast of this**, that he **understands and knows Me**, that **I am the Lord** who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.

IF OUR MIND IS STAYED ON THE LORD, MEANING THAT HE IS FIRST IN OUR THOUGHTS, WE WON'T BRAG!!!!

Isaiah 26 3-4 KJV

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

IF WE ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING UNTO JESUS, THE AUTHOR/SOURCE/LEADER AND THE FINISHER/PERFECTOR/MATURER OF OUR FAITH..... WE WON'T BRAG!!!!

Hebrews 12:2-3

2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For **consider Him who has endured** such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

IF WE ARE CONSTANTLY SEEKING THINGS ABOVE AND SETTING OUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE WE WILL NOT BOAST

Colossians 3:1-2

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

LET'S LOOK AT SOMEONE WHO HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BOAST, BUT NEVER DID!!!!

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

JMAC

Jesus was God incarnate, yet never exalted Himself in any way. Jesus, who had everything to boast of, never boasted.

In total contrast, we who have nothing to boast of are prone to boast.

Only the love that comes from Jesus Christ can save us from flaunting our knowledge, our abilities, our gifts, or our accomplishments, real or imagined.

BACK TO 1 COR 13

is not arrogant

Verse 4 cont'd

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

Arrogant – to puff up; to be inflated with pride; to be conceited, to be superior, to be stuck-up; to swell the heart and mind with the conviction of self-importance; to be inflated with a sense of one's own importance [to get the big head];

ARROGANCE - puffs up with pride, so as to despise others and feel satisfied with oneself.

ARROGANCE perhaps differs from **BRAGGING/BOASTING** this way.

BRAGGING/BOASTING is the **outward expression/display/exhibition** of the **disposition** [the temper, the frame or constitution of the heart and mind]/**attitude** [state of heart and mind]/**inclination** [preference, tendency, a leaning of the heart and mind towards] of **pride, vanity**, etc.

ARROGANCE is the **disposition** [the temper, frame or constitution of the heart and mind]/**attitude** [state of heart and mind]/ **inclination** of **pride, vanity**, etc. that resides in the heart and mind. In other words, it focuses on the inward disposition – the attitude.

EXAMPLE

A man may be very proud and vain IN HIS HEART, and not express it or put it on display in the form of boasting. THIS IS **ARROGANCE**.

HOWEVER, if he gives expression to this attitude/inward disposition and vaunts/parades/flaunts his endowments [gifts, talents, etc.], that is BRAGGING/BOASTING.

RECOGNIZE THAT ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T EXPRESS IT, DOESN'T MEAN YOU AREN'T ARROGANT!!

THE SIN IS INWARD, RESIDING IN ONE'S HEART!!!!

AGAIN, THE CORINTHIANS WERE GUILTY OF THIS SIN

1 Cor 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.

1 Cor 8:1

1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge makes arrogant**, but love edifies.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

AN EXAMPLES OF HUMILITY AS OPPOSED TO ARROGANCE

John 1:25-27

25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" **26** John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. **27** "It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal **I am not worthy to untie."**

John 3:25-30

25 Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. **26** And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." **27** John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. **28** "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' **29** "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. **30** "He **must increase**, but **I must decrease**."

ARROGANCE/PRIDE FORBIDDEN

Proverbs 8:13

13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and **arrogance** and the evil way
And the perverted mouth, I hate.

THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF ARROGANCE/PRIDE

Proverbs 11:2

2 When **pride** comes, then comes **dishonor**,
But with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10

10 Through **insolence** disrespect, rudeness; pride, arrogance comes nothing but **strife**,
But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.

Proverbs 16:18

18 **Pride** goes before **destruction**,
And a **haughty spirit** before **stumbling**.

Proverbs 29:23

23 A man's **pride** will **bring him low**,
But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

START HERE

BACK TO 1 COR 13

does not act unbecomingly

1 COR 13:5

5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

Unbecomingly – to behave/act rudely, to be discourteous, to act unmannerly [lacking in manners]; to conduct oneself improperly, or disgracefully, or in a manner deserving reproach [a scolding/rebuke]; to act out of its place or character; to overlook due decorum [dignity, modesty, correctly] and good manners; to be rude, insensitive and harsh.

It further means to misbehave towards others with irreverence and disrespect, with cruelty and condescension, with bad manners and hostility.

COMMENT

THE LOVELESS PERSON **does not care enough** for those around to act becomingly or politely.

THE LOVELESS PERSON **cares nothing** for other's feelings or sensitivities.

THE LOVELESS PERSON is careless, overbearing, and often crude.

THE RUDE BEHAVIOR OF SIMON THE PHARISEE

Luke 7:36-47

36 Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

37 And there was a **woman** [don't know her name. It wasn't Mary. The two other accounts [Matt/Mark and Jn 12] occurred in different places, at different times and in different locations] in the city **who was a sinner**; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an **alabaster vial** [the type of stone from which the vial/box was made] of perfume [expensive – possibly costing a year's wage],

38 and standing behind Him at His feet, **weeping**, she began to **wet His feet with her tears** [The *tears*.....of **painful remembrance**....of *what/who she used to be* and....**thankful emotion for what Jesus did for her**], and kept wiping them **with the hair of her head**, and **kissing His feet** and **anointing them with the perfume**. **39** Now when **the Pharisee** [*Simon v.40*] who had invited Him **saw this, he said to himself** [not out loud, but to himself], "**If** [casting doubt on the veracity of who Jesus actually was] this man were a [*THE*] prophet He would know who and what **sort of person** this woman is who is touching Him, **that she is a sinner.**" [...and I am not.

A statement that confirms Simon's blindness towards his own sin; this blindness is a major reason for his **rude and arrogant behavior** – **Luke 18:11**

11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.]

BACK TO LUKE 7

PARABLE OF TWO DEBTORS

40 And Jesus answered him [Simon never asked anything....Jesus knows what is in man, cp. **John 2:23-25**

23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. **24** But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for **He knew all men**, **25** and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, **for He Himself knew what was in man.**], "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." **41** "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" **43** Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly." **44** Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. **46** "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. **47** "For this reason I say to you, her sins, **which are many** [aren't all are sins committed, many in number?], **have been forgiven** [perfect, passive tense – past completed action with ongoing results], **for she loved much** [as a result of being forgiven much]; **but he who is forgiven little, loves little.**" {more of a sarcastic statement. SEE BELOW}

Luke 5:29-32

29 And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a **great crowd of tax collectors and other people** who were reclining at the table with them. **30** The Pharisees and their scribes **began grumbling** at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the **tax collectors and sinners?**"

31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those **who are well** who need a physician, but those who are sick.

32 "I have not come to call **the righteous** but sinners to repentance."

48 Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven [perfect tense]."

49 Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?"

50 And He said to the woman, "**Your faith** has saved you; go in peace."

BACK TO VERSE 47

A COMMENT

*but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little; this is an accommodation (a settlement or compromise) of the other part of the parable, and has a very special respect to Simon, the Pharisee, whose debts, **in his own opinion**, were few or none, at least **ten times less** [from the parable of the two debtors – 50 is ten times less than 500 vv 41-42] than this woman's; SIMON'S RUDE BEHAVIOR EXPLAINED - and he had **little or no sense** of the forgiveness of them, or of*

any obligation to Christ on that account; and therefore was **very sparing** of his love and respect, and even of common civilities to him OR THE WOMAN.

ANOTHER COMMENT

...**cold selfishness** does not take itself to be sinful. *Simon imagined* that he had little to be forgiven, and therefore loved little. Had he been a true saint he would have recognised his debt.

THE BEHAVIOR OF SIMON WAS RUDE AND DISCOURTEOUS!!
HE COMPLETEY DISREGARDED THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND OF THE WOMAN - HER AS A PERSON – HER FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS - HER DISPLAY OF LOVE, WHILE ERRONEOUSLY ELEVATING HIMSELF!!!!

REMEMBER THE COMMENT EARLIER:

COMMENT

THE LOVELESS PERSON **does not care enough** for those around them to act becomingly or politely.

THE LOVELESS PERSON **cares nothing** for the feelings or sensitivities of others.

THE LOVELESS PERSON is careless, overbearing, and often crude.

THE WOMAN WITH THE ALABASTER BOX IS WEEPING AND YET SIMON HAS NO SYMPATHY OR EMPATHY TOWARDS HER.

INSTEAD, ALL HE HAD WAS CONTEMPT FOR HER EVEN BEING PRESENT AT THE TABLE - FOR HER VERY PRESENCE AT THE TABLE.

LISTEN TO THIS COMMENT:

Many Christians have forfeited the opportunity for witnessing by rudeness to an unbeliever who offends them by a habit the Christian considers improper.

As with Simon, sometimes our attitude and behavior in the name of righteousness are **more improper**, and **less righteous**, than some of the things we criticize.

Love is much more than being gracious and considerate, but it is **never less**.

To the extent that our living is **ungracious** and **inconsiderate** it is also **unloving** and **un-Christian**. *ungodly*

Self-righteous rudeness by Christians can turn people away from Christ before they have a chance to hear the gospel.

The messenger can become a barrier to the message.

If people do not **see** the "gentleness of Christ" (see below) **clearly in us**, they are less likely to **see Him clearly** in the gospel we preach.

2 Corinthians 10:1

1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the **meekness and gentleness of Christ** — I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

BACK TO 1 COR 13

does not seek its own***1 COR 13:5*****5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,****Seeks not its own -****Seek its own** – means to be selfish. To be devoted to self.To be wholly taken up with concern for one's own advantage [*happiness*].It means to be **excessively concerned** with **ourselves** to the point that we neglect and sometimes even injure others.It is to be so **consumed with desire** for our **own advantage** that we “call ourselves off from that concern *for our neighbor* which God commands us to have.”It means to have an **immoderate** [uncontrolled, out of control] and **blind attachment** to **ourselves**.**JUST A SIDE NOTE:**

Paul is not meaning to teach that a man should not regard his own welfare at all; or have no respect to his health, his property, his happiness, etc.

Paul is warning against caring for ourselves to the extreme, to the excess AND AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS.

COMMENTARYThe loving person is more concerned about **doing what he should** and **helping where he can** than in having what **he thinks are his rights** and **his due**.**LOVE CONSIDERS NOTHING ITS RIGHT AND EVERYTHING ITS OBLIGATION!!!!***MacArthur***COMMENTARY**Surely the number one reason both for **mental** and **physical illness** in our society today is the **overwhelming preoccupation** with **our rights** and the consequent **lovelessness**.

When everyone is fighting for his own rights, no one can really succeed or be happy.

Everyone grabs, no one gives, and **everyone loses** — even when one gets what he wants.

Lovelessness can never win in any meaningful or lasting way.

It always costs more than it gains.

*MacArthur***ADAM AND EVE SOUGHT THEIR OWN WAY OVER AND ABOVE AND AGAINST GOD'S****Genesis 2:15-17****15** Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. **16** The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."**Genesis 3:1-6****1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the

garden?" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! **5** "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF SELFLESSNESS IN ALL OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:2-10

2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **3 Do nothing from selfishness** or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself [of the glory and honor He enjoyed in eternity past

John 17:1,5

1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; **glorify Your Son**, that the Son may glorify You,

SKIP TO VERSE 5

5 "Now, Father, **glorify Me** together with Yourself, with **the glory which I had with You before the world was.**],

BACK TO PHIL 2:7

7 but emptied Himself taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE CURE FOR SELFISHNESS IS SELFLESSNESS

LOOK AT...

Rom 15:1-3

1 Now we who are strong **ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. 2** Each of us is to **please his neighbor** for **his good**, to **his edification. 3** For even Christ **did not please Himself**; but as it is written **Ps 69:9**, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.

LET ME READ THAT AGAIN FROM THE AMP

Rom 15:1-3 AMP

1 WE WHO are strong [in our convictions and of robust faith] ought to bear with the failings and the frailties and the tender scruples of the weak; [we ought to help carry the doubts and qualms of others] and not to please ourselves.

2 Let each one of us make it a practice to please (make happy) his neighbor for his good and for his true welfare, to edify him [to strengthen him and build him up spiritually].

3 For Christ did not please Himself [gave no thought to His own interests]; but, as it is written **Ps 69:9**, The reproaches and abuses of those who reproached and abused you fell on Me.

John 2:15-17

15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; **16** and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

1 Cor 10:24,31-33

24 Let **no one seek his own good**, but that of his neighbor.

SKIP TO VERSE 31

31 Whether then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the **glory of God** [not for your glory or advantage]. **32** Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; **33** just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

THE COMMENTARY ON THE SELFLESSNESS OF TIMOTHY A TRUSTWORTH SON IN THE LORD!!!

Phil 2:19-23

19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. **20** For I have **no one else of kindred spirit** who will **genuinely be concerned for your welfare**. **21** For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. **22** But **you know** of his **proven worth**, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a **child serving his father**. **23** Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me;

THE SELFLESSNESS OF PAUL

2 Tim 2:8-9

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, **9** for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. **10** For this reason **I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen**, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

THE SELFLESSNESS OF OUR LORD AS AN EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW

1 John 3:16-17

16 We know love by this, that **He laid down His life for us**; and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren**.

THE SELFLESSNESS OF PRISCA AND AQUILA

Romans 16:3-4

3 Greet Prisca [Priscilla] and Aquila [her husband], my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, **4** who **for my life risked their own necks** [their own lives], to whom not only do I give thanks, but also **all the churches of the Gentiles** [their selflessness was known throughout];

BACK TO 1 COR 13

....is not provoked***1 COR 13:5*****5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,****....is not provoked** – “*easily*” added by translators; not in original - present, passive [an action happening to you] – something happens to you that is offensive/injurious/harmful, etc. A sudden negative, overt response to the offense is what provoked means.

It means to incite, to arouse, to spur, to anger; a spasm or sudden outburst of emotion or action; to exasperate. This word is the root of the English word paroxysm [any sudden outburst; a fit of emotion or action; a sudden strong feeling or expression of an emotion that is difficult to control; syn. outburst, explosion, eruption

COMMENT

Being provoked is the **other side** of **seeking one's own way**. The person who is **intent on having his own way** is continuously provoked and constantly angered.

COMMENT**SELFISHNESS GENERATES ANGER, IRRITABILITY, ETC.****COMMENTARY** - Barnes' Notes

.....a man who is under the influence of love.....is not "prone" to violent anger or exasperation; it is not his character to be hasty, excited, or passionate.....[*when injured.*]

He is calm, serious, patient.

He looks soberly at things; and though he may be injured, yet he governs his passions, restrains his temper, subdues his feelings.

COMMENTARY

“is not provoked,” is not merely ‘does not fly into a rage,’ but ‘does not yield to *the temptation of provocation*’/of *incitement, of stimulation to fly into a rage*: it is not embittered by injuries, whether real or supposed.

The International Critical Commentary

COMMENTARY

“he is not without his passions, but he is not governed by his passions, and overruled by them to fly out extravagantly against his brother upon every light and trivial occasion; he knows how to bear injuries, and is willing rather to bear....wrongs, losses, and injuries, than to do anything in revenge.....to his neighbour. Matthew Poole

COMMENTARY

St. Chrysostom says, "As a spark which falls into the sea hurts not the sea, but is itself extinguished, so an evil thing befalling a loving soul will be extinguished without disquietude [*irritable, edgy, anxiety*] i.e *having little to no effect on the individual who was harmed.*" Pulpit Commentary

COMMENT JMAC

Telling our wives or husbands that we love them is not convincing if we continually get upset and angry at what they say and do.

Telling our children that we love them is not convincing if we often yell at them for doing things that irritate us and interfere with our own plans.

It does no good to protest, "I lose my temper a lot, but it's all over in a few minutes." So is a nuclear bomb. A great deal of damage can be done in a very short time.

Temper is always destructive, and even small temper "bombs" can leave much hurt and damage, especially when they explode on a regular basis.

Lovelessness is the cause of temper, and love is the only cure.

EXAMPLES OF RIGHTEOUS PROVACATIONPAUL AT ATHENS**Acts 17:16**

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was **being provoked** within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

PAUL AND BARNABUS**Acts 15:37-40**

37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. **38** But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. **39** And there occurred such a **sharp disagreement** [the kindred noun to our word "provoked" in **1 Cor 13:5**] that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.