

Sermon NOTES

The Behavior of Love

BEHAVIOR: PERFORMANCE, CONDUCT, DEEDS, ACTIVITIES, MANNERS

1 John 4:7-8

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Romans 5:5

5 and hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out within our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

John 13:34-35

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

The first part deals with loving God, i.e. our relationship with God, and the second part deals with loving man, i.e. our relationship with men.

Matthew 22:37-39

37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

So that if you love God perfectly and you love your neighbor perfectly, you will fulfill the whole law.

You will never violate God, and you will never violate anyone else.

That's why the apostle Paul says the following in....

Romans 13:10

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

However, Love did not dominate the church at Corinth.

Because there was such an absence of love, God, through the Holy Spirit, directed the apostle Paul to write the most comprehensive portion of scripture on "love."

The first letter to the Corinthians is all about how the church is to deal with its own personal relationships.

Now, The fact that they got along so poorly calls into question their relationship with the Lord!!!

Overall, the first letter is a guide, if you will, to teach them how to love one another!!!!

This letter is not really about marital love, although it encompasses that.

It's not about family love, filial love, although it encompasses that.

It really is about demonstrating the love of God in the church.

They needed to learn that.

That's why this chapter on love was written.

LET'S TAKE A WALK THROUGH 1 CORINTHIANS

1 Cor 1:4-13

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, **5** that **in everything you were enriched in Him**, in all speech and all knowledge, **6** even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, **7 so that you are not lacking in any gift**, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, **8** who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

DIVISION IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all agree and that there be no divisions among you**, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. **11** For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. **12** Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "**I am of Paul,**" and "**I of Apollos,**" and "**I of Cephas,**" and "**I of Christ.**" **13** Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

IMMATURITY AND DIVISION

1 Cor 3:1-4

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to **men of flesh**, as to **infants in Christ**. **2** I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not **yet able to receive it**. Indeed, **even now you are not yet able**, **3 for you are still fleshly**. For since there is **jealousy and strife among you**, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like **mere men**? **4** For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

IMMORALITY, PRIDE AND ARROGANCE

1 Cor 5:1-3

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.

LAWSUITS AGAINST ONE ANOTHER

1 Cor 6:1-8

1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to **go to law** before the unrighteous and not before the saints? **2** Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? **3** Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? **4** So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? **5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, 6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?**

7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have **lawsuits** with one another. **Why not rather be wronged?** Why not rather be defrauded? **8** On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren.

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

1 Cor 6:13-20

13 Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. **Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.** **14** Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. **15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! 16** Or do you not know that the one who **joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her?** For He says, "**THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.**" **17** But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **18 Flee immorality.** Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

SELFISH, PRIDE, ARROGANCE IN TAKING THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Cor 11:17-22

17 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together **not for the better but for the worse.** **18** For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear **that divisions exist among you;** and in part I believe it. **19** For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. **20** Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, **21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.** **22** What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

SELFISH, PRIDE, ARROGANCE IN THE USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Cor 12:14-20

14 For the body is not one member, but many. **15** If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole

were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. **19** If they were all one member, where would the body be?

SKIP TO VERSE 27

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. **29** All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? **30** All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? **31** But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

NOW, OUR FOUNDATION TEXT

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, **I have become** a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, **I am nothing**. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, **it profits me nothing**.

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; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part; **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. **11** When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. **13** But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Paul does not picture love in ideal surroundings....

He doesn't picture love in the realm of very close and intimate long-term friendships.

SLIDE

He doesn't picture love in the realm of affection, but in the hard surroundings of a sinful, selfish, colliding group of sinners in a church, who have all come out of a bad world, and have all had bad influences on their already depraved souls, who are by nature selfish.

And even though they have a new nature and long for holy things, the old [nature] is still resident.

This is the atmosphere that we're talking about here.

We're not talking about your best friend.

We're talking about all the people, all the sinners, who collide in the life of the church.

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
- 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;

Verse 4

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **Love is patient** - or long-suffering, literally, "long-tempered". The word is common in the New Testament and is used almost exclusively of being patient with injurious or provoking people, rather than with circumstances or events.

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

Patience is the **ability to be inconvenienced** or taken advantage of by a person **over and over again** and yet **not be upset or angry**.

Chrysostom, the early church Father, said, "It is a word which is used of the man who is wronged and who has it easily in his power to avenge himself but will never do it."

PATIENCE NEVER RETALIATES

Scriptures on patience

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.

Eph 4:1-4

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.

Col 1:10-12

10 so that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11 strengthened with all power**, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and **patience**; joyously **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Patience demonstrated by God

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and **patience**, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

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?

2 Peter 3:8-9

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

Verse 4 cont'd

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

love is kind

kind - to show oneself useful, i.e. act benevolently; to provide something beneficial for someone as an act of kindness. To show goodness; 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 that are useful to that person who has offended.**

Kindness demonstrated by God

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of **His kindness** 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 the kindness of the Lord.**

Matthew 11:30

30 "For My yoke is easy [*kind*] and My burden is light."

Kindness demonstrated by Mankind

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** [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; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most

High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. **36 "Be merciful** [show compassion; 'to show one's heart toward,' 'to feel in one's stomach for,' 'to have one's heart go out toward,' or 'to treat as a loving child.], just as your Father is merciful.

37 "Do not judge [forbidding the habit of criticism. We have in our English words critic, criticism, criticize, dis-criminate. Jesus does not mean that we are not to form opinions, but not to form them rashly, unfairly, 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."