

Studies in Christianity

Christian Love #14

S#1.

Christian Love Is Not Rude

S#2.

Text : **I Corinthians 13: 1-13 ; I Corinthians 11: 17-22**

A. We are studying the behavior of love.

1. You will recall that verses 4-7 use 15 Greek verbs to describe love. S#3.
 - a. As an adjective it reads : “**Love IS or IS NOT this or that.**”
 - b. As a verb it reads : “**Love DOES or DOES NOT DO this or that**”
 - c. The Holy Spirit uses these 15 expressions of love both as positives and negatives.
George told his son Frank that one can tell a dead dog by poking him with a stick.
If you poke a dead dog with a stick he **won't bite** you, but one that's alive **will bite**.
Likewise, there are some things a real living love will do that dead love won't.
2. Last lesson we finished up verse 4 of our text.
 - a. **I Cor. 13: 4** – Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; S#4.
love does not brag and is not arrogant.
 - b. We observed two things Christian love will do : Exercise patience & kindness
 - c. We then observed two things it will not do : Brag and be arrogant (*self-important*)

B. With this lesson we will begin studying verse 5.

1. **I Cor. 13: 5** – Love... 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,
2. This section is both practical and convicting.
3. **Heb. 4: 12** – For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any S#5.
two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - a. **HOW** does the word of God **judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**?
 - b. It causes the believer to consider **WHY** he thinks and does what he does.
4. We are told to exercise our free will to allow the word to penetrate our heart.
 - a. **James 1: 21** – Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains S#6.
of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
 - b. When one receives the word of God implanted it will lead to salvation, **HOW**?
Rom 10: 17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
 - c. Once implanted, the word becomes the standard by which decisions are made which regulate one's actions ... *it judges his heart*.

I. This word was written specifically tailored to the needs at Corinth.**S#7.****A. The church at Corinth had an ongoing problem with their conduct.****S#8.**

1. **I Cor. 11: 17-22** ... We had this read as part of our text.
2. When the church would assemble, they would have a meal together.
 - a. It was supposed to be after the order of the last supper with Jesus.
 - b. They would eat together and have the communion together as Jesus did.
 - c. (*Aside from the religious significance placed on the bread and wine at the end of the last supper, this was the customary way Jews ended a festive meal.*)
 - d. The “Love-Feast” and the communion were separated sometime after 200 A.D., but there are historical references as late as 419 AD.
3. Some Corinthians were bringing their own food and eating ahead of others.
4. Some had reduced it to little more than a fellowship party.
5. The wealthy were not sharing with the poor.

B. Still today it is considered bad manners to eat before everyone is served.

1. **Ill. – *Hard for children to wait until everyone has cake before eating theirs.***
2. Some Christians in Corinth had no manners and no consideration for others.

C. They had the same attitude in the assembly.

1. **I Cor. 14: 26** – What is the outcome then, 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;

S#9.

- a. They were competing for the spotlight in the assembly.
- b. The church must never be used for personal advancement.
2. Their conduct was offensive to unbelievers.
 - a. **I Cor. 14: 23** – Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?
 - b. The Apostle admonished them to maintain proper decorum in their assemblies.
I Cor. 14: 40 – But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

S#10.**D. In the church, particularly in the assembly Christians minister to each other.**

1. **I Cor. 14: 26** – Let all things be done for edification.
2. This is the same message that the Lord’s Apostle taught in all congregations.

- a. **Rom. 14: 19** – So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. S#11.
 - * *When you leave this assembly who will you have built up today ? HOW ?*
- b. **I Thess. 5: 11** – Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
 - * *When you leave this assembly who will you have encouraged today ? HOW ?*
- 3. This is what the Holy Spirit is communicating to us. **LOVE each other.**

II. How does our appropriate behavior relate to love ?

S#12.

- A. The word that is translated as “unbecomingly” in our text is understood.
 - 1. We do not need commentaries and Greek reference books to understand.
 - 2. *aschēmoneō* = unbecoming:—behave self uncomely (unseemly).
 - 3. Also trans: NIV, ESV = Rude ; KJV, ASV, Young’s Literal = Unseemly ;
Today English = ill-mannered
- B. There are certain common words that are unworthy of the Christian.
 - 1. Peter understood that some language was too inappropriate for a Christian to use.
Matt. 26: 74 – Then he began to curse and swear, “I do not know the man!” S#13.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit instructs us to ALWAYS consider our words and choose.
Col. 4: 5 – Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **6** Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, **so that** you will **know how** you should respond to each person.
 - a. “Conduct” (*peripateō*) *to walk:—behave, walking around / about*
 - b. When a Christian is in the presence of an outsider he is on duty - **Ambassador**
 - 3. It is very common to hear people clean up their language when talking to a preacher. God hears every word we say, not just those spoke to ...
 - a. **Matt. 12: 35** – The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; S#14.
and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. **36** “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. **37** “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
 - b. Words are important because they reflect what going on in the heart.
- C. Conduct that is “unbecoming” involves our whole lifestyle.
 - 1. It refers to the way the Christian treats other people.
 - a. We just observed that we must consider how we treat outsiders.
 - b. Of course, we must treat our brethren in a very special way.

2. We teach our children manners because it effects their place in society.
 - a. Children who don't say please and thank you are looked down on.
 - b. Children who do not behave properly bring shame on their parents.
 - c. When the children of God do not act properly bring shame on God.
3. It addresses the way the Christian dresses.
 - a. We dress in a way that is appropriate to the situation. (*church / mow grass*)
 - b. MODESTY is always appropriate. (*Underwear covers more than some swimsuits.*)

III. As ambassadors for God we are always on duty.

S#15.

A. As a lamp on a stand we are to live before the public eye.

S#16.

1. **Matt. 5: 14-16** ... It is the plan of Jesus that we be visibly Christians.
2. The Apostle Paul did not hear the sermon on the Mt., but taught the same.

Phil. 2: 14 – Do all things without grumbling or disputing; **15** so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life,

 - a. Like the Philippians, we live among a “crooked and perverse generation”
 - b. We are responsible to live in an observable contrast to those around us **as light is contrasted with darkness.**

S#17.

B. God has set a standard below which no Christian must fall.

1. The Apostle Paul universally taught the need to walk/live worthy of God.
 - a. The church at Ephesus.

Eph. 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,
 - b. The church in Philippi.

Phil. 1: 27 – Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind **striving together** for the faith of the gospel;
 - c. The church in Colossae.

Col. 1: 9 – For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **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;

S#18.

S#19.

S#20.

d. The church in Thessalonica.

I Thes. 2: 12 – Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging **S#21.** and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, **12** so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

2. Love for God requires that we walk as HE would have us to walk.

CONCLUSION :

S#22.

A. What does all this have to do with the love Christians **do for God and others ?**

1. Love is a verb; it is a way one person treats another.
2. Ideally there is some Philia love along with Agape love, **but agape requires no emotional component.**
3. When Jesus commanded that we love our enemies, He commanded action/treatment.

B. Agape, ... i.e., ... love, demands that we seek the highest good of others. **S#23.**

1. Seeking their highest good requires we treat them with respect ... *not offend them.*
2. Treating God with respect demands that our action not be offensive to HIM.
3. Putting another's desires above our own requires that we try to please them.

Phil. 2: 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.

C. This is not to say that you may not confront someone with their need **S#24. to repent and turn to Jesus to receive the salvation that is found only in Him.**

1. Jesus confronted evil head on.
 - a. **John 8:44** ... Jesus told the self-righteous Jews, “You are of your father the devil..”
 - b. He told the Jewish hypocrites.

Matt. 22: 27 – Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are **S#25.** like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. **28** "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

2. HEAVEN is the highest good we can seek for anyone.

INVITATION :

S#26. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**I 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

I Corinthians 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.