

Intro

- ~ As I read through these descriptions of love I'm challenged. I go through my week and I see the fallenness of man and I realize how hard it is to love people when you see their humanity
- ~ One preacher said to his congregation if you knew what I was like you wouldn't listen to me preach and if the preacher knew what the congregation was really like he wouldn't preach to them
- ~ This demonstrates that while we seek to live for Christ and love others as Christ does we all fall short
- ~ While the biblical standards set by God are high we're not exempt from living up to those standards. Through the Holy Spirit and word of God we're able to live out the word
- ~ These requirements to love are high but doable through Christ
- ~ NLT captures for us the essence of this verse from the KJV = Love isn't rude. It does not demand its own way.

Text**1. Doesn't behave itself unseemly – Spiritual etiquette**

- aschēmoneō - From G809; to be (that is, act) unbecoming: - behave self uncomely (unseemly).
- Exp - is a mark of bad taste—a moral indecency; Love imparts a delicacy of feeling beyond the rules of politeness.
- Barclay - Love does not behave gracelessly. It is a significant fact that in Greek the words for grace and for charm are the same. There is a kind of Christianity which takes a delight in being blunt and almost brutal. There is strength in it but there is no winsomeness. Lightfoot of Durham said of Arthur F. Sim, one of his students, "Let him go where he will, his face will be a sermon in itself." There is a graciousness in Christian love which never forgets that courtesy and tact and politeness are lovely things.
- Holman - Paul at least expressed the need to follow customary decorum. The definitions of "rude" vary from culture to culture. At the heart of rudeness is a disregard for the social customs that others have adopted. When one does not concern himself with the likes and dislikes of others, he shows a disrespect for them. Proper regard, on the other hand, indicates love for other people.
- An example of this is would be when we joined the team from our church and moved to Argentina. Looking back one of the mistakes we made was trying to Americanize the Argentinean church. We made them have church services exactly like we did in the states. We got them to sing the songs we did in Greater Grace instead of singing the songs they were accustomed to, ordered the church service like we did. We shouldn't have tried to Americanize them but let respect their form of worship when it was ok. We thought we knew better
- Nevertheless, love does not always require a person to go along with the crowd. When the customs of a culture contradict the higher ideals of the Christian faith, it is not unloving to break these social mores. In fact, it may actually show Christlike love to break with such cultural norms. For instance, every loving Christian bears the responsibility to break the customs that perpetuate racial discrimination.
- Holman New Testament Commentary - Holman New Testament Commentary – I & II Corinthians.
- Lenski - The next link in the chain is that love "acts not unseemly. Tactlessness forgets its own place and fails to accord to others their proper dues of respect, honor, or consideration. Love is forgetful of self and thoughtful toward others. Paul himself is a good example. No matter where he might find himself, among friends or foes, before people or before rulers and kings, he always knew how to act as became his station and the position into which he was placed. "Who taught this tentmaker such noble and beautiful manners, such perfect tact in all his bearing, that even the great in this world were compelled to respect him?" Besser thus points to the positive feature suggested by Paul's negative statement, the propriety of bearing and conduct. See Trench regarding σχῆμα.
- While we want to be well-mannered and kind unfortunately we live in cancel culture that wants to cancel the voice of those who don't agree with the liberal media

Common Courtesies/etiquette

- 1 Put others first
- 2 Polite phone protocol
- 3 Thank you note
- 4 Open the door for others
- 5 se thank you and you're welcome routinely in conversation
- 6 Shake hands and make eye contact
- 7 Teach them to offer to serve people who enter your home
8. Stand up when an elder enters the room
9. Be polite to people who serve
10. Practice manners at family mealtimes

What about Spiritual Etiquette?

- Not speaking ill of others – this is the tool of the devil to hurt others and ourselves – in others it creates wounds and in ourselves it demonstrates pride and an attitude that we're better and we've never sinned
- Not complaining – while sometimes concerns are expressed we must be careful how we express them because we many express them in a way that causes others to become negative and focus on the wrong things. It may also over magnify issues. Complaining is negative, will bring down others, and doesn't help the problem unless the person is willing to do something to help the problem. When we complain about something are we willing to lend a hand to help improve the situation
- Being kind to others – This is what Paul gave us in v4. Kindness when mistreated by others.
- Being a good listener – some people talk right over others – how can minister to someone if you don't listen to what their needs are?
- Tactfulness – Tact means being wise in conversation, conduct and _____. – While it sounds silly think about how it feels/sounds to be involved in a conversation and someone two of the people make plans and exclude the third person. I haven't seen that happen in our church but I've been in places before where this happens. What the two people need to do is make their plans when the third person isn't present so the third person doesn't feel neglected or bad
- No need to be a "One Upper" – We don't feel the need to always "one up" someone else's story or incident.
- Thankfulness – A thankful person is an enjoyable person to be around. I purpose to be this way when I go into the stores and recently the few times I've been to Staples the same cashier girl thank you for being so nice

2. Seeks not it's own – Isn't selfish, self-seeking, or insists on its rights

~ Robertson - Its own interests

~ CEV - We should think about others and not about ourselves.

~ ESV - Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

~ Williams NT - No one should always be looking after his own welfare, but also that of his neighbor.

~ We're looking out for others and seeking the benefit of others more so than ourselves

~ 1 Cor 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. (The context is our Christian liberties.

We may have freedom to partake of certain liberties but when our love for our fellow-Christian means we look not on our own interests, freedoms, but we look to another's welfare

~ Rom 12:10 In brotherly love be affectionate to one another, in personal honors put one another to the fore

~ Phil 2:4 (Williams NT) Stop looking after your own interests only but practice looking out for the interests of others too

~ Phil 2:4 Guzik - This is being like Jesus in a most basic way, being an others-centered person instead of a self-centered person.

~ Love not only in our actions but also attitude

~ We get a good picture of seeking not its own first when we consider the example of a loving and sacrificing mother. She places her children first, her children's needs first. She sacrifices personal time and sleep to serve her family

~ This verse has to do with our rights

~ Barclay – "there are in this world only two kinds of people--those who always insist upon their privileges and those who always remember their responsibilities; those who are always thinking of what life owes them and those who never forget what they owe to life. It would be the key to almost all the problems which surround us today if men would think less of their rights and more of their duties."

~ Thinking of others first doesn't mean we ignore our needs to our detriment but we must have the mindset of others first. Very seldom laying down our lives is to our serious detriment

~ Putting others first over ourselves but not at the risk of endangering our own relationship with God

~ There is no love which does not become help – Paul Tillich

~ JC came to serve, not to be served (Matt 20:28)

~ JC never demanded, but served

~ In the Jesus' court trials, he was accused but never defended Himself and demanded his rights

~ On the cross JC never demanded convenience

~ Keep our life filled with love when were inconvenienced

~ Examples of not seeking its own

- Jesus in Phil 2:2-8
- Paul said the more he loved the less he was loved (2 Cor 12:15)
- Paul calls himself a *doulos* (servant) who had no rights
- Abigail put her husband (Nabal=fool) ahead of herself. David was coming to kill Nabal but Abigail risked her life to stop David

~ Love not only in our actions but also attitude

~ When a church is filled with people who look after the interests of others first that church will have chemistry and oneness that bring a blessing from God

~ Ps 133 *"A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."*

~ The opposition to oneness is being a self-centered person instead of being a others-centered person

~ May we remember to put the lost first and seek lost souls

~ How do we practically seek others needs first? Write a note to someone, go out of your way to be a blessing like taking a meal or ice cream to someone, help them with their need, call someone, pay for the coffee of the person behind you in the cash out line, take some cookies to your neighbor, give a gospel tract to someone, invite someone to church, offer to pray for and with your co-worker

Hymn by Charles D. Meigs "Others, Lord, Yes, Others"

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for others.

OTHERS, LORD, YES OTHERS,
LET THIS MY MOTTO BE,
HELP ME TO LIVE FOR OTHERS
THAT I MAY LIVE LIKE THEE.

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I'd do for You
Must needs be done for others.

Let self be crucified and slain
And buried deep: and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again,
Unless to live for others.

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in Heav'n's begun,
May I forget the crown I've won,
While thinking still of others.

Conclusion

- 1 God's love has Spiritual Etiquette – it goes beyond the etiquette a natural man can offer but is HS led
- 2 God's love isn't self-serving – It seeks to serve the needs of others over our own