

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Part 6

Richard Cimino
 Sunday Morning
 July 19, 2009

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

A Life That Pleases God pt.6 — The Essence of Abounding Love

Related Topics: Spiritual Challenges; Abounding; The Christian Walk; Pleasing God; The Will of God; Sanctification; Holiness; Sexual Sin; Sexual Purity; Taught by God; Brotherly Love; the Essence of Love; Godly Ambition; Hard work; An Orderly life;

This fourth chapter is all about a life that pleases God.

- How to walk in agreement with God
- How to walk in faith
- And to be ABOUNDING more and more in it.

The Holy Spirit doesn't leave the 1st Century Christians, or us, with any question as to what that looks like. [1 Thessalonians 4:3](#) For *THIS* is the will of God

[1 Thessalonians 4:9](#) *9Now*

This marks the transition from the subject of sanctification and sexual purity to the topic of sanctification and love.

[1 Thessalonians 4:9](#) *9Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,*

Last week we began to make a careful examination of this LOVE; that so pleases God; that is the trademark of the believer; that we are to abound in more and more.

[1 Cor. 13:4-8](#) *4Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8Love never ends.*

We said that in these verses the Holy Spirit shines God's love through a heavenly prism, and we are able to see the essential and indispensable properties of this love that should be abounding in our lives individually and corporately. Without these properties you do NOT have true love.

We noted that this passage is full of Greek verbs. A verb is an action word. DON'T MISS THIS, God's love is



much more than a feeling word, it is an action word. Therefore, love is only fully love when it acts.

1. SUFFERS LONG - patient in bearing the offenses
2. IS KIND - useful serving and gracious - love in work clothes
3. DOES NOT ENVY - Are you glad for the successes of those you love? Do you desire the success of those you love?
4. DOES NOT BOAST;
5. IS NOT PROUD - HUMBLE LOVE is preoccupied with the importance of others. Is CONSIDERATE instead of CONTENTIOUS

CRUCIAL: Satan cannot beat humility

1 Cor. 13:5 5is not rude

Rude = aschemon

Literally to behave disgracefully, dishonorably, indecently.

IDEA: "I don't love you because I could care less how my behavior affects you"

Interesting that Paul uses a form of this word in 1 Cor 7:36 in regards to dishonorable sexual behavior linked to sexual passions.

1 Cor 7:36 36If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed

Interesting that the root word of this word means to be shapeless or unformed or deformed. This person does not love enough to discipline their behavior around others.

More than lack of discipline, where there is an existing FORM or PATTERN of behavior/conduct, they selfishly act contrary to that standard. That conduct is disgraceful, dishonorable, indecent, RUDE.

EXAMPLE: When a bunch of guys get together there is a standard for what is acceptable, almost anything goes. But when you are dating the girl you love, there is an entirely different pattern or form of what is acceptable. (dying in the movie theater from gas pain)

On a more serious note, moral pattern of behavior, the Bible says we are not to be conformed to the pattern of the world, instead we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. That is essentially what launches this whole section of 1 Thessalonians 4, this is the will of God for you, your sanctification –

- THIS is the pattern that is acceptable to God and pleasing to God.
- THIS is how you walk so as to not be rude to God!
- THAT is love to God and it will translate into our human relationships.

NOTE WELL:

Any one of us can get into a bad place spiritually, becoming loveless and rude. Notice that sin has a way of corrupting even the nicest people, that's why we are told in [Jude 21](#) "Keep yourselves in the love of God."

Some thoughts on rudeness:

The Corinthians were a RUDE group of Christians. The Corinthians were best described by this word aschemon. There was a general thoughtlessness for others at church gatherings!

1 Cor. 11:20-22 20When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. 22What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

Let me address this from a totally different angle. There is a rudeness that flows from a "Holier than thou

attitude.”

Isa. 65:3;5 3a people who provoke me to my face continually..... 5 who say, “Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.” These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

- Rude towards the cigarette smoker next to you at some event
- Rude to those whose appearance is outside of what is acceptable to us
- Rude to those whose lifestyles are outside of the boundaries set by God.

That rudeness is offensive to God because HIS love is not rude!! (Jesus in house of Levi)

1. IS LONGSUFFERING
2. IS KIND
3. DOES NOT ENVY
4. DOES NOT BOAST;
5. IS NOT PROUD
6. IS NOT RUDE

1 Cor 13:5 5....It does not insist on its own way;

- KJV – seeketh not her own
- NLT – It does not demand its own way.
- NIV – it is not self-seeking

INSIST = seeking something in order to find it, but there is something deeper in this word. The SEEKING is driven by a CRAVING. That CRAVING leads to DEMANDING your way as the means to satisfying your craving. Bottom line, always seeking your own happiness with a disregard for others

Paul saw this as rampant in “ministry” and among those who thought of themselves as “ministers”

Phil. 2:21 For all seek their own

We are told that in the last days that men will be lovers of themselves ([2 Timothy 3:2](#)). We live in a world that is filled with men and women, young and old, who INSIST upon their own way because they are in love with themselves.

QUOTE:

Most matrimonial problems are caused by the marriage of two people who are in love with themselves

QUOTE: Alan Redpath

The secret of every discord in Christian homes, communities and churches is that we seek our own way and our own glory.

What does it mean to not seek your own way? Live to seek the interests of God. A LOOKING for, a SEEKING after, a CRAVING to see God glorified, Jesus exalted.

BIG IDEA: We find our happiness in seeking to please God and bring Him glory. THAT is the opposite of the selfish life.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE is Timothy

[Phil 2:19-21](#) I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21They all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

When our love looks like that we can say with Paul, "For to me to live is Christ." ([Phil. 1:21](#))

CRUCIAL:

One of the earmarks of the self life = No real concern for God's glory. No time – No energy – No money – expended for the glory of God on a regular basis. Energy is expended in "kingdom" affairs as long as it gratifies and satisfies self-concerns. In reality that is nothing more than a self-serving agenda undertaken in the name of "God's glory."

So, to NOT insist on your own way =

1. A concern for the Glory of God.
2. A concern for the good of others

LOVE LIVES TO BENEFIT OTHERS

[Phil 2:4](#) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

EXAMPLE: A plain tombstone in the courtyard at St. Paul's Cathedral in London reads, "Sacred to the memory of General Charles George Gordon, who at all times and everywhere gave his strength to the weak, his substance to the poor, his sympathy to the suffering, his heart to God."

HUGE APPLICATION:

This is to be a way of life for a husband in the marriage and when it is his way of life you KNOW that he has gotten his life squared away

[Eph. 5:28-29](#) In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

QUOTE: A Time for Remembering: The Story of Ruth Bell Graham (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1983), p. 39.

"At about the time Ruth Bell (later, the wife of Billy Graham) left China she wrote out what she wanted in a husband – in spite of the fact that she had decided to remain single and be a missionary! "If I marry: He must be so tall that when he is on his knees, as one has said, he reaches all the way to Heaven. His shoulders must be broad enough to bear the burden of a family. His lips must be strong enough to smile, firm enough to say no, and tender enough to kiss. Love must be so deep that it takes its stand in Christ and so wide that it takes the whole lost world in. He must be active enough to be gentle and great enough to be thoughtful. His arms must be strong enough to carry a little child."

LOVE:

1. IS LONGSUFFERING
2. IS KIND
3. DOES NOT ENVY
4. DOES NOT BOAST;
5. IS NOT PROUD
6. IS NOT RUDE
7. DOES NOT INSIST ON IT'S OWN WAY

[1 cor 13:5](#) 5....it is not irritable

QUOTE: Henry Drummond - The Greatest Thing in the World (First published c1800)

Nothing could be more striking than to find this here. We are inclined to look upon bad temper as a very harmless weakness. We speak of it as a mere infirmity of nature, a family failing, a matter of temperament, not a thing to take into very serious account in estimating a man's character. And yet here, right in the heart of this analysis of love, it finds a place; and the Bible again and again returns to condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature.? The peculiarity of ill temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character. You know men who are all but perfect, and women who would be entirely perfect, but for an easily ruffled, quick-tempered, or "touchy" disposition. This compatibility of ill temper with high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest problems. You will see then why Temper is significant. It is not in what it is alone, but in what it reveals. This is why I take the liberty now of speaking of it with such unusual plainness. It is a test for love, a symptom, a revelation of an unloving nature at bottom..... a sample of the most hidden products of the soul dropped involuntarily when off one's guard; in a word, the lightning form of a hundred hideous and un-Christian sins.

THIS person is HARD to live with!

QUOTE: Jonathan Edwards (The great colonial preacher and theologian)

He had a daughter with an uncontrollable temper. When a young man fell in love with her and asked her father for her hand in marriage, Dr. Edwards replied, "You can't have her." "But I love her and she loves me," he protested. "It doesn't matter," the father insisted. Asked why, he said, "Because she is not worthy of you." "But she is a Christian isn't she?" "Yes," said Edwards, "but the grace of God can live with some people with whom no one else could ever live."

KEY INSIGHT:

Not merely not flying into a rage, but does not yield to provocation; it is not embittered by injuries, whether real or supposed.

Which leads us to the next essential and indispensable element of Love.

Love:

1. IS LONGSUFFERING
2. IS KIND
3. DOES NOT ENVY
4. DOES NOT BOAST;
5. IS NOT PROUD
6. IS NOT RUDE
7. DOES NOT INSIST ON IT'S OWN WAY
8. IS NOT IRRITABLE

1 Cor 13:5 5.....it is not.....resentful;

LITERALLY — Love does not keep a record of wrongs

Logizomai — gives a verbal portrait of a bookkeeper who flips the pages of his ledger to reveal what has been received and spent. He is able to give an exact account and provide an itemized list. The picture here is that of keeping an ITEMIZED ledger of every wrong done to you.

ILLUSTRATION: One married man said to his friend, "You know, every time my wife and I get into a conflict, she gets historical." His friend said, "Historical? Don't you mean hysterical?" "No, I mean historical. She rehearses everything I've ever done wrong in the whole history of our marriage."

QUOTE: Chrysostom

"a wrong done against love is like a spark that falls into the sea and is quenched. Love quenches wrongs rather than records them."

QUOTE: Godet

"Love, instead of entering evil as a debt in its account-book, voluntarily passes the sponge over what it endures"

This is not a love based upon FEELINGS. It is love that is based upon VOLITION and CHOICE. It is GOD'S LOVE

[Psalm 103:3-4](#) If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?4 But with you there is forgiveness...

[Heb. 10:17](#) I will remember their sins no more

That is not a failure of memory, it is a promise to not keep judicial record of our sins because of what Jesus did on the Cross. REAL LOVE brings offenses not into the ledger but into the shadow of the cross!

Copyrights:

- The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles,
a division of Good News Publishers
All rights reserved.

   [Share](#)

Edit this entry?