

Building a Biblical Home
Lesson 4 – How Love Solves Family Problems
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Introduction: How many families have broken apart through bitterness?

- A. Without exception these battles come from those who want to pervert the gifts of God to serve themselves. **(1 Cor 4:6-7)**
 - 1. God’s plan is to draw our attention away from ourselves and make us like Him.
 - 2. The change of our hearts takes time. Satan will not give up, especially with Christians. **(Jas 4:13-18)**
- B. Where does God place the value? **(1 Cor 12:31)**
 - 1. The Corinthians were seeking the gift of tongues and placing a great value on it.
 - 2. Why did they place the value here? This was a mistake. They were not interested in the work of God but in self-advancement.

I. Things that have less value than love (13:1-3)

A. Eloquence

- 1. This has a value. What was the strength of Apollos? **(Acts 18:24)**
- 2. Paul lacked this, but was he useful to God? **(2 Cor 10:10; 11:6)**
- 3. How does God view eloquence without love? Where are you?

B. Wisdom

- 1. Wisdom has a value depending on its source. **(1 Cor 1:18-22; 2:6-7, 13)**
- 2. Is this wisdom enough? What does God say? **(1 Cor 8:1)**

C. Faith

- 1. We need to feed our faith and have it increase. **(Heb 11:6; Eph 6:16)**
- 2. What is faith without a foundation? **(Eph 3:17)**

D. Martyrdom

- 1. We need men and women who have the courage to stand! The testing and exposing of false teachers takes great courage. **(Rev 2:10; Eph 6:10-11)**
- 2. Still this alone is without value to God. The Ephesians learned this. **(Rev 2:2-4)**

II. The components of God’s love (13:4-7)

A. Love suffers long - “an element of constraint to be patient or forbearing.”

- 1. Do you help others to grow or hate them for their weaknesses?
- 2. How can love do this? You are not in the center of things. **(Rom 15:1)**

B. Love is kind - “gentleness”.

- 1. This a must in the work of God. **(2 Tim 2:24-26)**
- 2. Love will show this kindness that builds others? Who do you go to for help?

C. Love does not envy - “of hostile emotion based on resentment (be moved with) envy, be filled with jealousy, be jealous of **(Acts 17.5).**”

D. Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up - “as speaking arrogantly boast, brag; behave as a braggart or windbag.” Also as: “puff up, blow up; only fig. in the NT make proud or arrogant, cause to become haughty **(1Cor 8.1)**; become conceited or proud **(1Cor 4.6)**.”

- E. **Love does not behave rudely** - “as defying moral standards act disgracefully, behave improperly; as defying social standards be ill-mannered or rude (**1Cor 13.5**).
- F. **Love does not seek its own** - “to strive for” and “to one’s own interest or advantage.”
 - 1. Here is the acid test to see if God’s love is really in our lives?
 - 2. Can we do the work of the Lord with this attitude? (**Phil 2:19-21**)
- G. **Love is not provoked** (is not irritable or resentful RSV) - “as keeping a mental record take into account, keep in mind, count (up)”
- H. **Love thinks no evil** - “denoting a lack of something...bad, not as it ought to be”
- I. **Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth** - “rejoice, be glad, be delighted” and as: “disregard for what is right; (1) as disregard for divine law, “ and as: “of what has certainty and validity, of the real state of affairs, esp. as divinely disclosed truth”
 - 1. Are you glad when evil comes upon those who have hurt you.
 - 2. We must guard our hearts here. (**Rom 1:32; 2 John 4**)
- J. **Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**
 - 1. God’s love is all encompassing. (**Gal 5:14**)
 - 2. Is your life empty? What is in your heart?

III. Where does love come from?

- A. This love is learned. (**Luke 7:40-43; 1 John 4:18,10**)
 - 1. We choose to love. But How?
 - 3. God has chosen to identify Himself by this. (**1 John 4:8**) (Ex. How many abilities does God have? What has He emphasized?)
- B. Do we give the emphasis that God does?
 - 1. Our relationship with God is identified by it. (**1 John 4:8; John 17:23,26**)
 - 2. Our relationship with both the world and other Christians are described by it. (**John 13:34-35**)
 - 3. Our growth and faithfulness is measured by it. (**Eph 3:14, 17-19**)

Conclusion: When God gives this kind of emphasis, we had better open our eyes.

- A. It is possible to have good knowledge and be fighting God. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
 - 1. Does the love of God describe your life?
 - 2. Be honest, are the fruits of God’s love in your life?
- B. Why does love last over other things?
 - 1. Jesus knew it would, His kingdom is built upon it.
 - 2. Are you ready to begin serving God? You cannot remain in isolation!