



Caritas: Establishing Generous Love

April 12th, 2015

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves. - 1 Peter 4:8 KJV

THE FIRST STEP TO GENEROUS LOVE:

**DEAL HONESTLY WITH MY OWN DESIRE TO
GET MORE THAN GIVE**

Greed has twins, each named, "Give me!" – Proverbs 30:15 NLT

Romans 13:9-10

The Corinthian Problem & How to Develop Generous Love

1. DON'T EQUATE IT WITH RELIGIOUS BUSYNESS

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 KJV

This spiritual knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. - 1 Corinthians 8:1

2. REJECT SMALL-MINDEDNESS IN OURSELVES

*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own...
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-5a KJV*

3. EMBRACE BIG-HEARTEDNESS FOR OTHERS

[Charity] is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth... - 1 Corinthians 13:5b-6 KJV

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. - 1 Peter 4:8 KJV

4. ADMIT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT CHRIST

*[Charity] beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- 1 Corinthians 13:7 KJV*

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. - 1 John 4:10-11 NLT

Romans 5:8,10

5. MIMIC THE GENEROSITY OF CHRIST

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. ¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. - 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 KJV

Ephesians 5:28-29; Luke 6:32,35

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! ... now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. - 1 John 3:1-2 NIV

But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? - Galatians 4:9 ESV

I Will Change My Direction Today by...

- Memorizing **1 Peter 4:8**
- Repenting from wanting to get more than give.
- Adopting the values of charity, or neighbor-love, in all my relationships.
- Inviting Christ to live within me with the power and person of his love.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. How many weddings have you been to that read 1 Corinthians 13? How serious do you think most people truly take into their marriage what it says?
2. Why is covetousness a broader definition than greed when it comes to our desire to acquire?
3. Why does “doing religious things” often become a substitute for being loving toward one another?
4. Explain the importance of honestly assessing our own propensity to sin when we are called upon to love others with neighbor-love (Read Matthew 7:1-5 for help here)
5. When you think of love “covering a multitude of sins,” why must we be careful to not see this as covering up a problem? How do we cover the person more than the problem?
6. Why is it critical that one comes to experience God’s love in Christ before one can truly fully share neighbor-love with others? How does his love for us free us to love one another?