



Part 9: Growing OUR Pleasure - Love

2 Corinthians 2:1-4

1. Read **2 Corinthians 2:1-2**. Why does love require that we cause others pain at times? _____

a. Why does love seek to cause the least amount of pain as possible? _____

b. How do you tend to go *overboard* with causing pain in your attempts to love? _____

c. Practically – what can you do to avoid going *overboard* here? _____

2. Read **2 Corinthians 2:2-4**. Why does it seem like Paul is being selfish when he speaks of his concern for *his own gladness and joy*? _____

a. According to v. 4 – what do we learn Paul has for the Corinthian Christians? _____

b. Why is it critical to understand and identify *false* expressions of love from us and from others?

c. How does v. 3 offer clarity on what happens in the human *heart* when we truly love others?

d. How have you seen genuine love – according to v. 3 – expressed in your life in the past week?

e. How do the following verses bring greater clarity on genuine love: **Romans 12:15; 1 John 1:4; 2 John 1:12; Philippians 2:2**? _____

f. Why is being **upset** when something *goes well* for another (getting married, job promotion, having a child, ministry success etc...) the opposite of loving them? _____

g. When do you tend to get upset when things *go well* for someone? How will **2 Corinthians 2:3** help you cultivate a loving heart here? _____

3. Fill in the blanks for the definition for loving given, **Love** – Increasing my _____ by seeking to increase your _____ in _____.

a. Why am I not loving unless I desire to direct your heart toward enjoyment of God? _____

b. How does God-centered love for others relate to **Psalm 16:11**? _____

4. Do we need to learn to love ourselves more in order to love others according to **Matthew 19:19** and **Ephesians 5:28-29**? What is assumed here? _____

a. What is the real issue with loving others? Consider **Psalm 16:11** again. _____

5. Why should I be careful to say, “I don’t LIKE them, but I still LOVE them?” Consider **Romans 12:9-10** and remember that the word “honor” in Greek means to “value”. _____

a. Why don’t people feel loved when they feel like a duty or obligation, or that they’re just being tolerated? _____

b. How does remembering that people are made in God’s image provoke genuine love for them (i.e. – to enjoy them more)? _____

6. Name the top three people you need to work at expressing biblical love toward. _____

7. What is your main take away from this teaching? _____

