

# "The Greatest Gift: Love's Description" Pt.3

1 Corinthians 13:5,6

*Pastor Jason Dennett's notes*

**NKJV** - *"Love ...does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;*

**NLT** - *"Love is not ..rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out."*

As we continue to study 1 Corinthians 13, we see more clearly than ever before what it means to have **the amazing Agape Love of God** poured out upon our lives, in all of it's glory and beauty. However, we also are able to see the stark contrast that the Agape Love of God has, when **compared with the way that we often treat each other...**

- *A man who had been married for over 50 years was approached by his son, who wanted to know the secret to the marital happiness and success that his mother and father had enjoyed for so many years...*

## **I. How Agape Behaves**

## **II. What Agape Wants**

## **III. What Agape Resists**

## **IV. How Agape Thinks**

## **V. Why Agape Rejoices**

### **I. How Agape Behaves – "Not Rudely"**

- **AMP** - *"..it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly.."*
- *This is the Greek word "ἀσχημονέω" or "aschēmoneō"*

meaning to not act in a way that is ugly, deformed, or disgraceful.

- **Corinthian Rudeness** was present at the Lord's Supper where they were coming together, getting drunk, and being rude and unkind to each other in church:
  - **1 Cor 11:20-22 NLT** - "20 When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. 21 For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. 22 What? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly will not praise you for this!"

### **We have all seen the "Ugliness of Rudeness" in our lives...**

- People without regard for others...
- Acting rude and ugly in traffic...
- Horrible "Customer Service"...
  
- **"It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach as we walk." - Francis of Assisi**
- **"Many times our great problem is trafficking in unlived truth. As Christians, we often try to communicate what we're not living in our own life." - DL Moody**
- **"Love does not behave ungraciously"** is how William Barclay translated this phrase. Grace should pervade the life of a Christian. We are not only **SAVED** by God's Grace (Eph 2:8,9) but we are also to **LIVE** and **GROW** in God's Grace (2 Pet 3:18) throughout our entire lives!
- **"Kindness makes a person attractive. If you would win the world, melt it, don't hammer it." - Alexander Maclaren.**

## **II. What Agape Wants - "Not It's Own Way"**

- **AMP** - "Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking.."

- This is the Greek word "**ζητεῖ τὰ ἑαυτῆς**" meaning to aggressively and fiercely strive after your own needs, desires and cravings.
- **Corinthian Selfishness** was a wide spread cancer; it was visible in their eating of meat sacrificed to pagan Greek idols:
  - **1 Cor 10:23-24 NLT** - "You say, "I am allowed to do anything"--but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"--but not everything is beneficial. **Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.**"
- **Today's 21st century world truly is falling into a state of "self-absorption" and selfishness.** A study of history shows that the great civilizations of the world have only averaged about **200 years**. The people of the world have generally followed this timetable:
  - From slavery to spiritual faith
  - From spiritual faith to courage
  - From courage to liberty
  - From liberty to abundance
  - From abundance to **selfishness**
  - From **selfishness** to apathy
  - From apathy to dependence
  - From dependence back to slavery.
- **Franklin Bailey** runs a **marriage counseling service** in Los Angeles. Mr. Bailey lists as the major complaints from the 10,000 people who have passed through his office, in this order: sex, money, children, and trouble with in-laws. But he says that **the real problems are selfishness and greed.**
- **There was a pilot who was flying a small plane with 3 passengers:** a minister, an intellectual genius, and a young boy. Suddenly, they encountered turbulence, lost their engine power, and were going down....

This phrase "**Love does not seek it's own**" could be written over the entire earthly ministry of Jesus Christ:

- **His Incarnation** and Virgin Birth..
- **His Ministry** of Teaching and Healing...
- **His Death** upon the Cross of Calvary...
- **Mat 20:27-28 NKJV** - "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- 28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

### III. **What Agape Resists** - **"Not Provoked"**

- **AMP** - *"..it is not touchy or fretful or resentful.."*
- This is the Greek word **"παροξύνω"** or **"paroxynō"** meaning to stimulate, spur on, to irritate, to provoke, arouse to anger, to exasperate.
- **The Corinthians were easily provoked and angered, engaging in lawsuits:**
  - **1 Cor 6:6-8** - *"..brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, **you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!**"*
- *"Christianity helps us to face the music, **even when we don't like the tune.**" - **Philips Brooks***
- **Take a Break & Relax:** *Bats are said to live longer for their size than any other animal. They have a life span of twenty years. It has been suggested that the secret of their longevity is **their ability to relax and go quickly into the deep sleep** of hibernation. Right after fighting, one of them can almost immediately slow its heartbeat from 180 per minute to three, and it can retard its respiration from eight breaths a second to one every eight minutes.*
- **"Butcher Of The Ages"** - *In the 1600's **Chang Hsien-Chung**, a bandit leader who gained control of the Chinese province of Szechuan, **killed 40 million people during his reign** of five*

years (1643–1648). He ranks with the most murderous butchers in history. His government policy consisted of condemning to death everybody within reach. Their extermination is called “His Reforms.” Chang slaughtered these people...WHY?? - **His irritation and anger were aroused when he sat down upon a prickly plant, native to the province.**

#### IV. How Agape Thinks - **"Not Evil"**

- **AMP** - "..it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]."
- This is the Greek word **"λογίζομαι"** or **"logizomai"** meaning to count up, to calculate, to mentally keep track of something. In this context it can mean
  - 1. Not thinking about Evil things. (Phil 4:7,8)
  - 2. Not keeping track of the evil that's happened to you. (Jer 31:34) ("Delete")
- **In Corinth, the very opposite of this was happening.** People were constantly wronging each other, and it was stirring up division and fighting:
  - **1 Cor 6:7** - "Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not **rather accept wrong?** Why do you not **rather let yourselves be cheated?**"
- **Necessary Frosts** - "A young man was trying to establish himself as a peach farmer. He had worked hard and invested his all in a peach orchard which blossomed wonderfully - then came a frost that killed all his peaches. He did not go to church the next Sunday, nor the next, nor the next. His minister went to see him to find the reason. The young fellow exclaimed: **"I'm not coming any more. Do you think I can worship a God who cares for me so little that He will let a frost kill all my peaches?"** The old minister looked at him a few moments in silence, then said kindly: "God loves you better than He does your peaches. He knows that while peaches do better without

*the cold, it is impossible to grow the best people without frosts. God's desire is to grow men, not peaches." - Christian Worker's Magazine*

## **V. Why Agape Rejoices - "Not in Sin but Truth"**

- **AMP** - *"It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail."*
- *This is the Greek expression meaning "to not rejoice or be pleased with injustice ; with moral wrongfulness in character, a life or wrong/unjust acts."*
- **The Corinthians**, however, were **delighting in evil** by engaging and allowing rampant public sin in their church:
  - **1 Cor 5:1,2** - *"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—**that a man has his father's wife!** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you."*
  - **This verse doesn't only apply to "big sins" such as fornication, adultery, or murder.** But also to "**lesser sins**" which are common in the church, such as gossip, slander, and causing division.
    - **James 3:5-10** - *"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell...But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."*

### **"The Wrecking Crew"**

*I stood on the streets of a busy town,*

Watching men tear a building down:  
With a "Ho, heave, ho," and a lusty yell,  
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.  
I asked the foreman of the crew,  
"Are those men as skilled as those you'd hire if you wanted to build?"  
"Ah, no," he said, "no indeed.  
Just common labor is all I need.  
I can tear down in a day or two,  
As would take skilled men a year to do."

And then I thought as I went on my way,  
**Which of these two roles am I trying to play?**  
Have I walked life's road with love and care,  
Measuring each deed with rule and square?  
Or am I one of those who roam the town,  
Content with the labor of tearing down?

### **IN CONCLUSION...**

**If Paul were a Gardener, this is what he would tell the  
Corinthians to "plant" in the soil of their hearts:**

**First, plant 3 rows of SQUASH:** Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism,  
and Squash Rudeness.

**Then 4 rows of LETTUCE:** Let us be Faithful, Let us be Truthful, Let  
us be Loyal, Let us be Unselfish.

**Finally, no garden is complete without TURNIPS:** Turn up for  
Church, Turn up to Serve, Turn up with a Smile, and Turn up with  
**LOVE!**