

Meeting Needs is Rooted in Humility

Fuel Your Faith 6

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This week we want to concentrate on developing the type of love that meets needs. This type of love is the opposite of the way the world loves ... who usually loves in exchange for something it can receive. We're all familiar with the mentality: *I will love you as long as you give me something in return*. This love is often superficial and temporary. As circumstances and things change ... as life happens, this type of love often evaporates like the morning dew.

Today, on Fuel Your Faith, we'll examine what is certainly one of the highlights of Paul's writing in the New Testament. The passage is written in the context of togetherness inside the local church family ... which is intended to be a sweet taste of what we will experience in heaven after this life is over.

Paul wants his readers to draw on their common experiences in Christ and His grace as he stressed that they *think the same way, have the same love, be united in spirit, and be intent on one purpose*, 2.2. He wanted them to be together with the same values and loves. These are heart characteristics that come from the very core of our spiritual identity.

Now, what does that togetherness look like? How is it demonstrated? As we'll see ... true love looks out for the interests of others.

True love is rooted in humility. *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves*, [Philippians 2.3](#). This verse contains a negative and positive admonition. First, we are to avoid selfish ambition and conceit. Selfishness is a consuming and destructive sin. It can breed anger, resentment, and jealousy. Conceit seeks personal glory and acclaim. Positively, we are to move in humility. It is the very opposite of selfish ambition and conceit. This character trait is simply a realistic appraisal of oneself and others as being in the image of God. Someone has said, "the practice of humility consists in giving to other people a dignity and respect which Christians expect of themselves, especially as both parties are seen in God's sight." It is the most basic character trait of being a Christian. It is being *poor in Spirit* as Jesus specifies in [Matthew 5.3](#).

True love is also rooted in consideration. *Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others*, [Philippians 2.4](#). This verse spells out the way the previous verse works. Christians are to be on the look out for the interests of others as well as their own. Each Christian in the local church is being called upon to have this spirit of care for the others among them. It is the actual belief that others in the church family are more important than oneself. Again, this goes totally against the grain of modern culture which turns a blind eye to self-fulfillment, disrespect, apathy, and indifference. We must resist these things at all costs.

Now the positive ... we need to be committed to looking out for the interests of others. We rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, [Romans 12.15](#). We continually

pursue the things which make for peace and for the building up of one another, [Romans 14.19](#). We bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves, [Romans 15.1](#). We bear one another's burdens and thereby fulfill the law of Christ, [Galatians 6.2](#).

As you spend time in your spiritual devotion today, give careful examination to your heart. What are some of the difficulties you have had in putting [Philippians 2.3-4](#) into practice? Is your self-reliance and self-fulfillment holding you back from meeting the needs of others? What can you do to address those things? Who are some people in your church family that you can look out for the interests of? What might that look like practically? And, what is a little thing you can do today to bring this about?

For you were called to be free brothers and sisters, only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love, [Galatians 5.13](#).

Thank you for listening to Fuel Your Faith. Join us again tomorrow as we take another look at how love endeavors to meet other's needs.