

LOVE LESSONS
The Habits of Love
1 Corinthians 13:7

GOOD HABITS:

***Why we love em!**

- We know they are good FOR us [Live longer/Achieve more/Feel better]
- We know they are RIGHT [They are like God/Moral high ground/Biblical]
- We know we OUGHT to do them. [Conscience bears this out/People affirm them.]

***Why we hate em!**

- They are HARD

***Tom Landry – Coaching is getting men to do things that they really do not WANT to do in order to help them ACHIEVE the things that they DESPERATELY want to achieve!**

- They DEPRIVE us of many things that we really WANT! [Tofu Vs. Steak!]
- They are seldom FUN.
- They take a LONG TIME to bear fruit

The Good habits of love are EASY to see in how God works with his own children in relationships, even though (and when) they DO NOT ALWAYS RESPOND rightly to him!

- Is true of how God ALWAYS treats us!

The good habits of love are PRESENT in EVERY healthy relationship!

-This is CONSISTENT!

-Studies bear this out! [The One Thing You Need to Know – Marcus Buckingham]

-This is true of EVERY good relationship!

***Go back through 1 Cor. 13:4-6 – Suffers, is kind, does not dishonor, etc.**

***Even though they do not always MAKE every relationship healthy.**

- This is because it still takes TWO to make a healthy relationship!
- But if a relationship is going to have a chance, these things MUST be there.

THE GAP in our HABITS: THIS is the RUB!

***Realize that there will ALWAYS be a GAP between our EXPECTATIONS of others and their ACTUAL BEHAVIOR!** [Andy Stanley – Staying In Love]

-Gaps are bigger in some people than they are in others.

I am sure that YOUR significant other is the worst case scenario!

-Accept this: There are even gaps between YOUR behavior and the expectations that others have for you!

So, WHAT TO DO?

-EASY, everyone else just needs to STRAIGHTEN UP and ACT RIGHT! (Right.)

***The KEY to the Gap? How do I RESPOND to that Gap?**

- Am I in the HABIT of responding in HEALTHY or UNHEALTHY ways?
- How is my response HELPING or HURTING my relationship?

What are the Good Habits of Love?

OTHER TRANSLATIONS:

AMP - 7 Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening].

NIV - 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love BEARS all things.

***Bears=Thatch, to Cover [to protect or keep by covering], preserve**

-Comes from a word that means ROOF

***This means that love PROTECTS the beloved from outsider attacks and pains.**

*Love DEFENDS its partner.

***This means that love TAKES THE HEAT for much of what maybe OUGHT to come to someone because of THEIR OWN ignorance, neglect, flaws, or failures!**

-The Bible is NOT unrealistic about how this affects us!

Numbers 11:10-15 NLT - Same word used in Greek Translation (Septuagint)

10 Moses heard all the families standing in the doorways of their tents whining, and the LORD became extremely angry. Moses was also very aggravated. 11 And Moses said to the LORD, "Why are you treating me, your servant, so harshly? Have mercy on me! What did I do to deserve **the burden** of all these people? 12 Did I give birth to them? Did I **bring them** into the world? Why did you tell me to **carry them** in my arms like a mother **carries** a nursing baby? How can I **carry them** to the land you swore to give their ancestors? 13 Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people? They keep whining to me, saying, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 **I can't carry all these people by myself!** The load is far too heavy! 15 If this is how you intend to treat me, just go ahead and kill me. Do me a favor and spare me this misery!"

-We NEED God's HELP when it comes to the habit of BEARING all things!

***This is how a MOTHER cares for her growing baby!**

-This is what the STRONG do for the WEAK!

***Romans 15:1** – We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak.

***Galatians 6:2** – Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Peter 4:8 NLT

8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love **covers a multitude** of sins.

-This will not be a short list, no matter how good your "other" is! [Tweet - #GAP]

***Proverbs 10:12** – Hatred stirs up conflict, but love COVERS all wrongs.

-This action actually helps to prevent conflict and quarrels.

***This is a KEY to the transformative power of Christ through love.**

1 Corinthians 9:12b NLT

We would rather **put up with** anything than be an obstacle to the Good News about Christ.

-Paul was speaking about RIGHTS that he was willing to give up!

Love BELIEVES all things.

Believes=to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in

***This is how love CHOOSES to THINK ABOUT US when we are NOT at our BEST!**

believeth all things--unsuspiciously believes all that is not palpably false, all that it can with a good conscience believe to the credit of another. Compare Jam 3:17, "easy to be entreated"; *Greek*, "easily persuaded."

***Believes implies a GENEROSITY of spirit when responding to the failures of others.**

-Love GIVES people ROOM to make mistakes; even repeatedly!

-This is the OPPOSITE of ASSUMING THE WORST about a person in that GAP!

***I KNEW it! He is NEVER on time. She ALWAYS wastes money!**

-This is how people in healthy relationships HONOR each other in bad moments

***They find REASONS to believe the best: He was probably distracted. Bad day at work! He was probably out helping someone!**

***Believing is what MIGHT help others to begin to believe in themselves.**

Love HOPES all things.

Love never LOSES HOPE:

***Love always seeks to HOPE the best FOR US no matter how BLEAK things may seem!**

-Love is EVER OPTIMISTIC!

***The BASIS of our hope is GOD HIMSELF! Romans 15:13 NLT**

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Love ENDURES all things.

Endures: to stay under (behind), i.e. remain (not to FLEE); figuratively, to undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere:—abide, endure, (take) patient(-ly), suffer, tarry behind.

***Love REMAINS when it would be EASIER to RUN!**

***Love SEES BEYOND the CURRENT circumstances to what COULD be later on!**

The HARDEST REALITY that the HABITS of love must face: ALL

*Many of you are doing your BEST to find the LOOPHOLES in these habits!

If you are currently doing your best to cultivate and practice these habits of love, please let me encourage you to KEEP GOING. Your perseverance is the BEST THING that your relationship has going for it right now!

BUT, what if you have either GIVEN UP on this or have never really ATTEMPTED them in the first place? Or, what if it is only YOUR PARTNER that is consistently and actively attempting to practice these good habits?

In other words,

Are you DOING FOR OTHERS what you deeply wish that they would do FOR YOU? Matthew 7:12 NLT

12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

*This is the ONLY HOPE that ANY relationship ever has!

-SOMEONE has to GO FIRST! Will YOU be that one?

-This is NOT FAIR! I agree. But God did it for us, so . . .

There is ONE OTHER PERSPECTIVE we should consider about these love habits:

What are you DOING with the good LOVE HABITS that are already being shown to you?

What are YOU DOING with the trust/hope/credit/pain that is being exhibited towards and spent ON YOU by SOMEONE ELSE?

Are you really SATISFIED with the results of being selfish and abusive with it?

What will it take to TURN YOU AROUND from this destructive behavior?

How long do you expect OTHERS to show you this kind of love?

How willing are you to TREAT THEM the way that you have been TREATED?

Is this unreasonable?

ULTIMATELY, HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO THE AMAZING LOVE HABITS THAT GOD HAS BEEN LAVISHING ON YOU?

*This is the FIRST LINE of response that we should be focusing on! It will create the energy and motivation for EVERY OTHER RELATIONSHIP in my life! Furthermore, it GLORIFIES GOD no matter what else happens!

David Guzik quotes Spurgeon’s message on Love:

Spurgeon sees the four qualities mentioned as love's soldiers against evil. Evil is such a strong enemy, it comes at us again and again. First, we face evil with *patience*, for love **bears all things**. "Let the injury be inflicted, we will forgive it,

and not be provoked: even seventy times seven will we bear in silence." If this isn't enough, we battle evil with *faith*, for love **believes all things**. We look to God and His promises and we believe them. If this is not enough, we overcome a third time by *hope*, for love **hopes all things**. "We rest in expectation that gentleness will win, and that long-suffering will wear out malice, for we look for the ultimate victory of everything that is true and gracious." Finally, we finish the battle with *perseverance*, for love **endures all things**. "We abide faithful to our resolve to love, we will not be irritated unto unkindness, we will not be perverted from generous, all-forgiving affection, and so we win the battle by steadfast non-resistance." Spurgeon concludes the thought: "Yes, brethren, and love *conquers on all four sides*.... What a brave mode of battle this is! Is not love a man of war? Is it not invincible?"

How are YOU doing with the GOOD HABITS OF LOVE?

Let's pray.