

## RCMI L-Path Teaching

February 28, 2021

English

### The Practice of Love Part 2

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

*<sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

#### INTRODUCTION

- The truly spiritual life is not controlled by the gifts but by the fruit of the Spirit.
- Our heavenly KPI or KRA is not the gifts but the fruits.
- The basis of our performance if we are to be graded in heaven is "love"
- If you don't have the fruit of the Spirit, then, the gifts of the Spirit are functioning in the flesh.
- The only legitimate reason to exercise our spiritual gifts is through love.
- Paul is calling on the members of Corinth Christian Church to love and "Forget yourself."
- The Corinthians didn't have a doctrinal problem.
- They are excellent in doctrines, they just didn't have love.
- Two things that must be understood before verses 4 to 7 can be understood.
- First, love is not a feeling or an attitude, it is an action, and it is something we do.
- Second, love is always related to somebody else, never to self.

#### I. Love Does Not Rejoice In Unrighteousness (v. 6a)

*<sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil"*

- The word "evil" simply means "unrighteousness." It is the word that talks about sin.
- Love never rejoices in sin. The Corinthians brag about their sin
- Incest was being committed in their midst, and they were proud of it.
- 1 Cor. 5:1-2, - *"<sup>1</sup>It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. <sup>2</sup>And you are proud?"*
- "Do not rejoice" in unrighteousness if we love because sin offends God.
- Sin is so offensive to the holiness and purity of God.
- Without holiness no one will see the Lord, without love no one will see the Lord.

#### II. Love Takes Delight In The Truth (v. 6b)

*<sup>6</sup>Love rejoices with the truth."*

- 1st Corinthians 13:6a also addresses the issue of gossip in the church in Corinth
- Love finds the good in people and talks about that, a kind of "plus" person.
- A "minus" person is somebody who goes around subtracting from people's reputations.
- Love is a plus - it's positive. It encourages goodness, finds the best in a person, and then exalts it.
- Love does not depreciate others.
- Love is selfless, it is so concerned about the welfare of somebody else.

#### III. Love Never Gives Up on People (v. 7a)

*<sup>7a</sup>Love always protects"*

- It primarily means "to cover with silence," or "to suppress."
- Love respects and is concerned with the value of another person.
- Love covers the ugliness in someone else's life.
- It will do everything it can to cover up and suppress the weakness of another person.
- People are always looking to find the skeleton in somebody else's closet.
- Genuine love is reluctant to drag a scandal in front of anyone.

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- Married people don't talk about the errors and the faults and the sins of their partner.
- The Corinthians didn't know the meaning of covering sin. They exposed everybody.
- The best illustration to describe the characteristic of love that always protects is the cross.
- Love has a redemptive quality.
- Propitiation or atonement means "covering." Jesus is the covering for our sin.
- God is not in the business of exposing sin, He's in the business of covering it.

### IV. Love Never Stops Trusting (v. 7b)

*"<sup>7b</sup>Love always trusts"*

- Love believes the best in someone else.
- Love is not cynical and suspicious - suspecting everybody and everything.
- Instead of being suspicious and eager to denounce an offender, love believes the best.
- Instead of saying, "He probably got exactly what he deserved" or "He'll probably never change," love believes the best.
- Love sees the weakness, throws a mantle of silence over it, and then believes the best.
- Jesus believed the best in Peter, James, and John.
- If you're going to make a mistake about somebody's character, do yourself a favor and err on the side of love. Make a mistake in the fact that you trusted and believed in them too much.

### V. Love Never Loses Hope (v. 7c)

*"<sup>7c</sup>Love always hopes"*

- When you run out of faith, hang on to hope.
- Hope is the long line, the long cord, that never gets disconnected.
- As long as the grace of God is operative, human failure is never final.
- Love is hopelessly optimistic - it never stops hoping.
- Love says, "God is still God and He can do it, so that's what I have to hope in."
- Love refuses to take failure as final.
- Many a loving wife has held on to a husband with nothing but that rope of hope.
- Many a loving parent has held on to a wayward child.
- Many a loving friend has held on to a fallen brother, just holding on to hope.

### VI. Love Never Quits (v. 7d)

*"<sup>7d</sup>Love always perseveres."*

- The Greek term translated "persevere" is a military term which has to do with being positioned in the middle of a violent battle.
- The emphasis is not on handling little, minor annoyances.
- It's referring to love that stands against incredible opposition and still loves.
- When Stephen was lying on the ground with his life being crushed out with stones, he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." (Ac. 7:60b).
- On the cross, Jesus threw a mantle over His crucifiers' sin with the words, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk. 23:34).
- Love never dies. You can't kill love. It never fails.

## CONCLUSION

- We are to practice love. Start in your own home.

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- If we put these fifteen characteristics of love into practice, the world will look at us and say what God wants them to say: "They love one another!" And that will exalt Christ.

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Love is patient.
  2. Love is kind.
  3. Love does not envy.
  4. Love does not boast.
  5. Love is not proud.
  6. Love does not dishonor others.
  7. Love is not self-seeking.
  8. Love is not easily angered.
  9. Love keeps no record of wrongs.
  10. Love does not delight in evil.
  11. Love rejoices with the truth.
  12. Love always protects.
  13. Love always trusts.
  14. Love always hopes.
  15. Love always perseveres.
- These descriptions of love fall into 2 categories: "is" and "isn't/doesn't".
  - Notice that the "Isn't/doesn't" category is more reactive and the "Is" category is more proactive

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Of the 15 commandments to love others, what is the easiest part for you? What is the hardest part for you?
2. Identify 3 qualities of love you will give focus on this week. Apply this first to you family members.
3. What is your first reaction when another Christian offends you? Is your first response go to that person and confront him, or do you rush to tell someone about what he did, or you process your emotion and tried to understand the person? Be honest!
4. When someone comes to you with a juicy piece of gossip about another Christian's sin, do you discourage them from spreading the gossip, or do you encourage them with listening ears?