

Sermon Notes

June 28 & 29, 2014

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Agape: Christlikeness | II Corinthians 3:18

Introductory Thoughts

From where does love come? Did love exist before man? Does love actually find its origin in the heart of God Himself? We are told in Genesis 1:27 we are created in the image of God. What does that mean? (John 1:12; Romans 8:14-16; II Corinthians 6:18; and Revelation 21:7)

Why are we “*predestined*” to become like Jesus Christ? (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4)

I. Walking worthy

Ephesians 4:1-3

Why this unity thing? For two reasons: the world has been given the right by God to judge us and His Son.

II. Walking Christ-like

Colossians 2:6

Paul puts it this way in Ephesians 5:1-2.

Look at I John 2:3-11; 4:7-12

¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- II Corinthians 3:18^{ESV}

Developing the Habit of Christlikeness

The following exercise is a tool for developing the “habit” of acting and thinking like Christ (Philippians 2:5). By constant, daily practice we reprogram our subconscious mind to reflect biblical, godly attitudes and reactions to everyday circumstances.

This list is derived from I Corinthians 13, the “Love Chapter.” The purpose is to consistently evaluate ourselves, thus becoming aware of the areas where we most need correction. Awareness leads to the conscious decision to change the behavior, which then becomes a new habit.

Choose one characteristic of love that you could benefit from growing in and put your name in the blank. Ask yourself several times a day, “Am I living this quality of love?” (Maybe recruit a spiritual friend or your spouse to help remind you.)

_____ is patient

_____ is kind

_____ does not envy or boast

_____ is not arrogant or proud

_____ is not rude

_____ does not insist on his/her own way

_____ keeps no record of wrongs

_____ is not irritable or resentful

_____ does not delight in evil
(narrow your thinking to: “I do not respond from my fleshly feelings or hurts, but I respond from the Spirit.”)

_____ rejoices with the truth
(narrow your thinking to: “I rejoice in hearing the truth about my actions from you.”)