

Selfless Love Comes From Humility 2017-07-23

1 Cor 13:4-5a

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way;

Corinthians seemed completely self-absorbed.

- Measured selves by their gifts, ministries, freedom, disdain Paul.

Selfishness a root problem in human race; antithesis of love.

- Love isn't selfish nor demands its rights. 1 Cor 13:5a, 10:23-24
 - Encompasses selfish ambition, conceit, self-pity, blame shifting.
- Any preoccupation w/self is self-centeredness & always destructive & contrary to way of love.

To love selflessly must overcome selfishness with humility.

- Gk word "Humility" not found in any Gk writing before NT.
 - In pre-NT pagan world not virtue but something base, common, useless, valueless, worthless & never to be sought or admired.

Most believers want humility, but few really know what it means.

- Biblical humility: seeing self realistically—as God sees you in light of Gospel
 - saved by grace & there go I if not for grace. 1 Cor. 15:10
 - everything temporal & eternal undeserved gifts of grace from God.

These Biblical truths produce a heart-humility that manifests itself in many ways:

- not demand personal rights....grateful not given what deserves by God.
- regard another as more significant than self Phil 2:3, 1 Tim 1:15-16, Eph 3:8
 - not about putting self down, but rather lifting others up. Rom 15:2-3
 - understanding self (sinful) & value, dignity, worth of others.
 - Think about their worth before send/reply email
- Puts interests of others above own comfort, preferences, schedule, desires w/o neglecting own responsibilities. Phil 2:4, Mt 22:37-39, Jam 2:8
 - Equally concerned about same matters in other's lives as own.
- Serves others & not seeks to be served.
 - Servant attitude that freely (not forced like slave) attends to others' needs w/o expecting or demanding anything in return.

JC supreme example of selfless love from humility. Lk 22:26, Phil 2:3-9, Mk 10:45

- He did nothing from selfishness or conceit, not demand His "rights but rather King/master of all became servant of all. Jn.13:3-8
- set aside His royal robes, & tended to desperate needs of humankind.
 - Healed broken/sick, encouraged hopeless, salvation for lost.
 - Still serves: interceding for Cxns (Rom 8:34), giving everything need for life, godliness & service to Himself to glory of God.

Seems selflessness fullest expression of what Cxn love is all about.

- Not thinking less of yourself. Simply thinking of yourself less.
- Being content w/back seat. Being happy with who you are, where you are and what God has provided.
 - If God wants you in front row, He'll move you there.

- As we pursue JC & desire to become like Him.....selfless love that comes from humility will naturally & inevitably follow & glorify God.