

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 19, May 21, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him***

be glory both now and forever. Amen."

SACRED MARRIAGE— Until Death Causes Parting! (Part 4) **[The MIRACLE OF GOD'S LOVE, 1 Corinthians 13]**

In this study we will be called upon to ACT UPON 1 Corinthians 13, in our homes and in the church family. WHY? *** "For love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God!" (I John 4:7) *** "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us!" (I John 4:12) *** "God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him!" (I John 4:16) *** **A CHRISTIAN** is one who has received God's Holy Spirit; and the first thing God does is to FLOOD that person with His divine love! (Rom. 5:5)

HOW IMPORTANT IS LOVE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

Without love (God's kind) — to speak the many languages of men and of angels, or to prophesy, or to have all knowledge, or to have powerful faith, or to be a great humanitarian, or to even be a martyr— none of these are of any value without love! Without love, I am nothing. ***In our homes, in our churches— if our lives, actions, and attitudes do not demonstrate GOD'S LOVE, we are just a bunch of noise makers.***

The letter to the Corinthian church: For 12 chapters, the Holy Spirit has the Apostle Paul tackling specific problems which engulfed the church. **THEN, the Holy Spirit moved Paul to set forth a THREE-FOLD SOLUTION:**

1. He spoke to the Corinthians about the centrality of the CROSS.
2. He addressed every plaguing problem and gave God's warning, and God's correction.
3. He unfolded the supremacy, necessity, and the character of God's love. **THE HOLY SPIRIT, THROUGH PAUL SAYS:** "Let me show you a better way to live!" THUS, IN 1 Corinthians 13, he shows the place of love in the church and in the life of any Christian:

I. Love must be preeminent— First / Above All! (13:1-3)

TO PROVE THE POINT, a most extreme illustration is given. *** **A life without love (13:1-3)** may seem impressive, may seem supernatural, may appear to be sacrificial. But in reality, it is only: Noise! Zero! No profit! I John 4:8— he that loveth not knoweth not God.

II. The incomparableness and virtues of love, (13:4-7)

This portrait of love in vv. 4-7 is the work of a photographer! Christ is the original! Here is a photograph of the very character of Jesus which He personally displays; and which He also imprints in the heart of every Christian! For the genuine Christian is one who has been given the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22— the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love; and if any have NOT the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His (Rom. 8:9).

John 15:12— "This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you!"

GOD'S LOVE ACTS IN THESE WAYS — 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

V. 4— Love is patient; love suffers long. This is how love acts in the face of having been wronged or injured (real or imagined) or when things don't go like we desire. The natural thing to do when evil strikes us— is to resent, to get angry, spew out bitter words; exchange blows.

BUT THE LOVE OF GOD... “Keeps calm: JESUS suffered long: JESUS was rejected, despised, spit upon, and scorned— but He didn't strike back. THINK ABOUT IT: If God were not patient with us, who could stand?

At some point, everyone will have someone who will grieve us or offend us. What will we do? Break off relations? Dislike? Avenge? Get even? Throw in the towel? Or will we love? IN CHRIST I CAN and I MUST SUBMIT TO THE WORD OF GOD AND THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT— AND BE PATIENT!

PATIENT— this is how love acts in a turbulent world— this is how love responds to people and circumstances. God's love in the Christian withstands the trials of daily living— like Jesus when reviled, reviled not again. That's love! Love is patient / suffers long / is redemptive towards the offending saint or sinner!

V.4— Love is kind. Love suffereth long— that's the passive aspect.

Love is kind— that's active. Love is not love because it suffers long; but because when suffering it is kind. **CHIEF EXAMPLE:** Jesus was there upon the cross in unspeakable pain; but forgetting all about His own pain, never harboring in His heart the awful things done and said to Him— He looked over to the repentant thief and said: “Yes, I'll remember you in My kingdom. You will be with Me in Paradise!”

GOD'S LOVE IN US, MAKES US KIND! AM I... Are you kind? Do we think of what someone has done to us or what, by God's grace, we can do in love for them? (Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:26) **God's kindness has a missionary spirit; it's an active grace.** WE hear of a brother that's in sin or trouble— Do we: Pass by...? Talk about...? OR Help? **Love is kind!**

V. 4— Love envys not. There's the envy of coveting the possessions or rewards of others. We want them. There's the envy of not so much wanting things for ourselves— but just wishing others had not gotten them. There's the envy of delight when someone else fails or stumbles. Envy is miserably common; IT WAS THE Seed of Eve's sin; the seed of the first murder in human history; the seed which the gossip uses to murder another's character, or accomplishments.

ENVY: There is nothing more unlovely in the heart of a professing Christian—the only cure is God's love! And if you and I will be honest— Envy hurts us most of all. It poisons our minds. **On the walls of a chapel in Europe is a suggestive figure painted and titled: ENVY!** The figure is given long ears to catch every breath of rumor and scandal which can be used to hurt a neighbor. The figure is give a serpent tongue to poison the reputation of others. But then, in the figure— the head coils back to sting the eyes of the figure itself! It may be that the greatest harm of envy is its blinding effect on our own souls.

VS 4— Love vaunts not itself; is not puffed up. This characteristic of love reveals to us outward conduct and inward disposition: God's love is not boastful or bragging. It does not need to be noticed or applauded. It does not need to be first or to be

served. God's love is humble, filling the position of the servant—like Jesus.

QUESTION: Do we demand first place; or that we be “pampered”... or that our name be trumpeted abroad before we will serve Christ? Love cares only that it has the privilege to serve (Luke 17:10).

Sure, we should encourage and express gratitude to others. But if no one notices or even thanks me— what will I do? Jesus healed ten lepers... Only one thanked Him. Jesus kept on serving! And when our service is unto God and not for men, we will keep on serving, also!

AS ANOTHER ONCE SAID: “If our Lord could bend from the throne of the universe so far as to wash the feet of Judas, we may well gird ourselves for meek and lowly service to those who are tempted, outcast, fallen and to one another in the church.”

WHAT'S THE SECRET? The love of which Paul speaks has looked up to God. When we do this, we know that we have nothing to boast of, no room for pride. The real Christian never ceases to stand in amazement: That God could stoop so low as to love even me. Consequently, I must not be less than humble. I have no position more than servant!

V. 5— Love does not behave itself unseemly. GOD'S love is not ill-mannered. Love is full of grace and charm— always polite. Love is not brutal, nor full of ugly, vile, and rude things. Again, love has a bridled temper and a converted heart.

V. 5— Love seeks not her own. Selfishness lies at the root of a thousand evils and sins: Cure selfishness and you have planted a Garden of Eden. **Self, lives to get— love lives to give.** Jesus

loved so much, it was said: “He saved others, He cannot save Himself!” **In the last analysis:**

1. You are either a person who continually thinks about your “rights” or you continually think about your “responsibilities.”
2. You are either thinking of “what someone owes you” or what you “owe” to others and God.
3. Love never pouts about “my place/my rights.”
4. You are either thinking about getting or giving!

V. 5—Love is not easily provoked or love never flies into a temper. Love is not irritated. GOD’S love has a way of keeping calm, cool, and collected. When you lose your temper, you lose everything. **Jesus hated sin but He was never angry at wrong done to Himself!**

H. MacGregor, a Presbyterian minister, had a high-strung temper. Once he went to a Bible conference and he learned something he had never learned before: He had always excused his temper: “He inherited it!” But at the Bible conference he learned that

“Yielding to any evil tendency, no matter how rooted in one’s nature, is sin!” And so he wrote, “I have been searched through and through, and bared and exposed and scorched by God’s searching Spirit!” So in brokenness, he confessed and repented of his besetting sin; and asked God to cure him. **God did!**

Love is not irritated. Love conquers all! Will you and I allow God’s searching Spirit to expose and scorch us? Will we confess/repent and ask God for His cure? (Isa. 6/2 Tim. 3:16).

V. 5— Love thinks no evil. Love takes not account of evil. Love does not store up the memory of any wrong it has received.

The Greek word for “think” is an Accountants word; It is a word that is used for entering up an item in a ledger so that it will not be forgotten. **“As is a man’s character— so is his memory!”**

1. One man forgets the wrong he does. That’s a sign of a hardened or sleepy conscience.

2. Another man forgets the wrong done to him: That’s God’s love.

3. A host of other men have a computer memory of every wrong imagined and real that has been done to them— such ones are likely slaves to bitterness.

QUESTION: have you decided to store up in your mind the bad which happened to you... and to brood over them— to have them to throw up later. So many people nurse their wrath to keep it warm. Evil news flies more swiftly and lingers longer than good news only because our hearts are evil and empty of God’s love.

Love takes no delight in hearing of other’s sins and shames and follies: HATE, NOT Love is sadistically delighted by gossip and rumors. Love wouldn’t pass them on. Love would pray. Love would minister.

VS 6—Love rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth. We must not delight in sin personally. We must not delight in sin vicariously (TV/magazines/thoughts). We must no delight when other’s sin— love sinners and rejoice when truth prevails. Are we heartbroken at the misfortune or sinful breakdown of others? (Oh, my God! HELP! My brother has fallen!) Or do we have a tendency to gloat over them secretly; and delight to gossip?

Love does not do that, for at the cross— mercy and truth met; and there Jesus condemned sin but pardoned the sinner and redeems.

Are there any sinners in our world for whom we've not broken hearted at their sin... amazed that we did not fall... and looking for a way to be redemptive? ... BECAUSE AS CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, WE REJOICE IN THE TRUTH AND REJOICE WHEN TRUTH REIGNS!

V. 7—Love bears all things: Or love endures all things.

Love can bear any disappointment or injury or insult without retaliation. Jesus said: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Love is not afraid to face life: “Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.”

There is no greater testimony of enduring love than that of Christ on Calvary's tree; and by the Holy Spirit, He lives in you, Christian! GOD'S LOVE, WHICH HAS FLOODED YOUR HEART, CHRISTIAN—cannot be conquered: It bears, it believes, it hopes, and endures and never fails. It is not gullible / but trusting. Not quick to believe evil!

The biblical definition of love is a ‘photograph’ of the character of Jesus Christ. Being a Christian is nothing more or less than Christ being reproduced in that person. ARE OUR HOMES, THE CHURCH FAMILY TO WHICH WE ARE JOINED— ARE WE ‘recognizable reproductions’ of Jesus or not?

To have this love UNHINDERED and FLOWING in and through our lives:

1. We must come to Jesus in repentance and faith. When we grow cold in love— strife rages in homes and in churches. The only cure is to confess our sins. We must never cease to live in repentance and faith.

2. When we grow cold in love— there is no active program of soul-winning visitation and seeking after the lost.

3. When we grow cold in love, we come to church services only to seek something for self— instead of coming to be worship, to serve, to be equipped, and to receive marching orders.

A LIFE OF LIVING OUT THE LOVE OF GOD is God's way to live! The source of this love is Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. IT IS PROBABLY that some who are receiving this Bible Study, need to receive Him as Savior and Lord. JESUS is God's gift of love to you.

CHRISTIAN: Love HAS FLOODED our hearts through the Holy Spirit. For there to be fullness of love; there must be fullness of Holy Spirit—WHICH MEANS A CONTINUAL FEEDING UPON THE WORD OF GOD, IN OBEYING-FAITH. **CHRISTIAN:** To love is a choice not a feeling— A FAITH CHOICE of surrender to the LORDSHIP OF CHRIST! **So let it be!**

Great Grace to All! James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

**** **SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

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SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE** → Enter via **IRON STEPS, side door.**

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class.**

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, May 28, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:** EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am: (STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

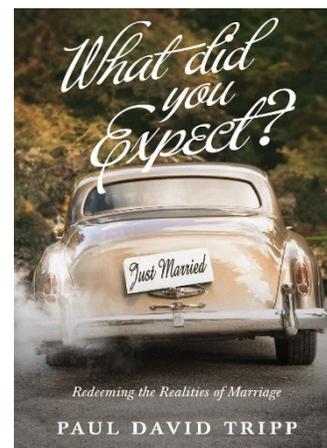
SUNDAY SERVICES, MAY 26

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

****** MAY 26 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages:**

Paul David Tripp's 'WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)



SOUTHSIDE DAY CAMP JUNE 26-28 / 9:30am - 12:30pm

There will be **no cost** for this camp. Lunch and snacks will be provided. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

Age Groups:



Ages 0-4 - This class will be taught by Rhiannon Allen and will last from 9:30 - 12:30. This age group is welcome to stay for the afternoon activities, but a parent must pick them up at 12:30 and stay with them for the rest of the day.

Ages 5-8 - This class will be taught by Bethany Troutt and will last from 9:30 - 12:30. This age group is welcome to stay for the afternoon activities, but a parent must pick them up at 12:30 and stay with them for the rest of the day or other arrangements for a responsible adult must be made.

Ages 9-18 - This class will be taught by Jaden Allen and will last from 9:30 - 12:30, followed by a craft time and an activity time ending at 3 pm.

FOR MORE INFO and/or TO REGISTER— Contact Jaden Allen:
Email at jadenrallen@gmail.com // or text/call at 615-939-0318