

THIS SUNDAY: We ENCOURAGE the GIVING OF GIDEON BIBLES...in memory of Mothers, grand-mothers, and other just as precious ladies! <https://www.sendtheword.org/>

The article below, drawn from hand written notes, taken at a Bible Conference in 1978— can be a powerful tool for healing and growth in your marriage... or in the MARRIAGES of people in your world: PLEASE USE IT! SHARE IT!



Volume 46, No. 18, May 4, 2021 / 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 JESUS CHRIST!"***

Mother's Day: Gifts for Mom and other Humans!

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. (Phil. 2:3-4 KJV)

Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit and empty arrogance. ***Instead, in the true spirit of humility*** (lowliness of mind) ***let each*** regard the others as better than and superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves]. ***Let each*** of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. (Phil. 2:3-4, Amplified)

POWERFUL, LIFE-CHANGING REALITY:

***** [1] To the degree** that the above verses are embraced and obeyed there will be harmony and love in Christian homes and local church fellowships!

***** [2] To the degree** that the above verses are embraced and obeyed—

THE LOST WILL SEE OUR LOVE and they will KNOW THAT WE ARE GENUINE DISCIPLES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

***** [3] For the glory of God and in HONOR OF MOTHERS and other family members; AND FOR our fellow saints in Christ; and in order to RADIATE A POWERFUL GOSPEL WITNESS TO A WATCHING WORLD—**

LET us adorn the Gospel of Christ by

1. GIVING ACCEPTANCE!

As I die to my selfishness this can actually become an easy choice! In fact, it is a good thing to accept my mate and/or others in my world as being **perfect— that is, perfect for me!** Instead of having a mental list of things that I just cannot tolerate in others, it is a wonderful day to simply receive others as **'perfect' gifts from God— divinely designed in His grand plan to conform me more in the likeness of Christ!**

Giving ACCEPTANCE is a choice in my own heart and not dependent upon anyone else changing anything (Romans 15:5); **and it is a choice to live to be a godly blessing to others for Christ's sake rather than expecting to be pleased!** (Romans 15:1-7)

There are times when my mate or others may SEEM to be perfect sandpaper! But have you ever noticed that qualities we can't tolerate in others often reveal our own carnality? Ouch! REST ASSURED, the Holy Spirit will focus on changing us and not them!

(Later, He may change my mate, the co-worker, the neighbor or fellow church member— but that’s His business for Him to work in His own time. It is not my business!)

Submitting to this divine process places me right in the center of God’s will and frees me up to maintain an attitude of acceptance (and not rejection!) toward family members and saints in the assembly.

HOW CAN I COMMUNICATE THE GIFT OF ACCEPTANCE TO OTHERS?

1. By facial expressions; **2. By** patience with failure; **3. By** tone of voice; **4. By** listening, looking eye to eye; **5. By** being shock-proof! (When I **show shock at** the failures of others, I reveal that I have vastly underestimated the depth of my own heart’s wicked capacities!)

WHY IS ACCEPTANCE IMPORTANT? Because while rejection separates and breeds hate; acceptance builds bridges of love, enhances forgiveness, keeps us from bitterness; and ministers encouragement and edification (Rom. 12:17-21; 15:1-7).

HOW DO I PRACTICE GIVING ACCEPTANCE?

1. Thank God for the person or circumstance.

2. Simply obey Rom. 15:7 - “. . . Receive ye one another, as Christ also received us...”

3. Trust the Holy Spirit. **4. Cultivate intimacy with Christ:** for out of intimacy with Christ, Christ will flow through us to others by His Spirit. (John 4:14; 7:38)

5. Serving others is the key to being a happy servant! (John 13:13-17)

2. GIVING GRATITUDE!

Appreciation, thankfulness/gratitude prevent neglect and presumption in my heart and encourages others— spouse, children, neighbors, fellow saints, etc. I Thessalonians 5:18 says, **“In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”** Where the simple kindness of thankfulness toward others is neglected... discouragement is bred, giving dries up, and love dies.

MANY OBVIOUSLY UGLY and GREAT “HOME-DESTROYING” SINS WERE PRECEDED BY YEARS OF INGRATITUDE by ONE or BOTH husband and wife! Many times we claim to be grateful, yet we fail to prove it with words and deeds!

As with acceptance, gratitude must be communicated with words and consistency. Expressed gratitude toward one’s spouse will doubtless help keep us from taking them for granted and will help keep our hearts warm so as to nourish and cherish our bride and/or honor, respect and encourage our husband (Eph. 5:22-33) In reality, gratitude is positively powerful for both the giver and the recipient.

Ingratitude (or a lack of ‘thankfulness’) is one of the primary roots of all the unspeakable sins which are listed in Romans 1:21-32! **Christian families and churches are built up** by gracious words and deeds of gratitude and appreciation.

3. GIVING AFFIRMATION!

AFFIRMATION can be expressed by *finding a ‘strength’* in our spouse, a child, or fellow saint— *and complimenting him or her!* Simple sayings like— Good job! You look great! What a blessing you are! I know that with God’s help you will do well! I thank God for _____ (this quality) in you! etc. — all these edify and encourage.

SADLY, we all find it easy to be masters at destructive criticism/confrontation, and strangers to any ministry of affirmation. It is reported that the average parent makes ten negative to every one positive comment; and that it takes four positive to offset one negative comment! Granted, the negative (if it

is Biblical) has a place. There are times when we need loving, firm rebuke and correction. But we also need positive encouragement. **Affirmation feeds love!** And we are commanded by God to do it! (Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:29; I Thess. 5:11-14)

HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH AFFIRMATION? **1.** Go back and apply Phil. 2:3-4!

2. Take every opportunity to offer sincere compliments to your mate, or child, or brother in Christ.

3. BEWARE! Do not use false affirmation, such as a deceiver who offers compliments out of insincere, evil or selfish motives.

4. GIVING CONSIDERATION!

CONSIDERATION is continuous and careful thoughts regarding the rights and feelings of my mate or others. Consideration is loving humility in action, seeing needs and meeting them regardless of the failings of others toward me in the past or present. For an example of this, study the account of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. (John 13:4-17)

You doubtless won your spouse's love, at least in part, through deeds and words of consideration. In the same way, we can keep the fires of love going. TO CEASE TO BE CONSIDERATE IS TO LEAVE "FIRST LOVE." The Church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-5) was busy doing "church work"; but they had forsaken loving the person of Jesus. Even so **many husbands and wives are busy 'making a living'... doing all manner of 'stuff'— BUT THEY have forsaken consideration and/or loving each other in a thousand little ways.**

5. GIVING COMMUNICATION!

COMMUNICATION is verbal and non-verbal means by which two people express their ideas and feelings to one another, honestly and in a responsible way! What communication

level are you on with your mate or with others in the Body of Christ?

1. Shallow: “Hi, how are you?” “Fine.” **2. Third Person Level:** Here you talk about facts, happenings in the world, the weather, etc. **3. Opinions:** Here you still have your guard up. This can also be cool and formal. **4. Feelings:** This is deeper. You are getting personal.

5. Total Communication: Here you feel so safe with a person that you share openly and honestly without holding back YOUR reality and still feel safe that you will not be rejected or become the topic of gossip.

To have total communication we must be honest, open, vulnerable, responsible, a good listener, not a critic, not a grudge bearer, and not a gossip or talebearer. A great hindrance to total communication is the fear of rejection.

If your mate, friend, or child on some occasion hears you react harshly, judgmentally or unforgiving to someone, they will find it hard to open up. ***Sadly, many Christians kick their wounded, stir up grudges, and when they open their mouths it is the next chapter in, “As the knife turns!”***

What if every time you opened your Bible or closed your eyes to pray or opened your lips to sing unto the LORD, the HOLY SPIRIT KICKED YOU DOWN WITH A SPIRIT OF CONDEMNATION?

What if God kept bringing up your forgiven past with words like, “I’ve forgiven you but I want to remind you again how much you hurt Me.”... “I don’t know if I can trust you.”... “I just want you to know that in spite of all you have done to me, I am willing to love you.” “I’ve forgiven you, but I don’t want to be around you or to be seen in public with you.”

The bottom line: Total communication requires genuine forgiveness and reconciliation— the kind that God, for Christ’s sake, has given us! (Eph. 4:31-32) He remembers our past against us NO MORE! (Isa. 43:25; Ps. 103:12)

6. GIVING AFFECTION!

AFFECTION, in marriage, is anything from sweet words, to a touch, to sacred sex. In the area of sex, husbands and wives must not steal or defraud one another. (1 Cor. 7:1-5) The big secret in sex is to give your body to God and to your mate. Plus, focus on total needs, not just sex! (Giving all of the other ‘gifts’ noted in this article, sets the stage for this one! To fail to do the others is to throw cold water on this one!)

Godly touching in marriage includes **‘touching’ with the other ‘gifts’ listed in this article:** Acceptance, Gratitude, Affirmation, Consideration, and Communication. **Affectionate Touching is emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual.**

(For a powerful presentation on these 4 aspects of ‘touching’—

read chapter 11 of Dr. Ed Wheat’s *Love Life for Every Married Couple!*)

It is good and wise for there to be lots of non-sexual touching/affection; but in marriage sexual affection/expressions should not be neglected.

AFFECTION INSULATES MARRIAGES FROM OUTSIDE ATTACKS! (Every couple should have, read, and APPLY the abundant Biblical truth found in Dr. Ed Wheat’s two books: *“Love Life for Every Married Couple”* and *“Intended for Pleasure”*.)

A clear Word from God: If a husband or wife withholds sexual intercourse from their mate, **they unite with satan as a team** to tempt their mate to sin! (See I Corinthians 7:3-5)

This is also true: If for a genuine physiological problem a spouse cannot participate in the ‘act of marriage’ — how selfish, satanic and deadly it would be for the other spouse to leave or claim an excuse for being unfaithful!

INSTEAD, what you have a grand opportunity to prove the grace of God and to demonstrate the unconditional, sacrificial, unending love of Jesus Christ... which you PROMISED when you vowed, "I WILL LOVE YOU, FOR BETTER or FOR WORSE, TILL DEATH DO US PART!

7. DEFINING genuine LOVE

LOVE is, (as an act of worship to Jesus who is always worthy), **meeting the actual needs of another sacrificially, unselfishly, and unconditionally WITHOUT DEMANDING a response!**

LOVE is seeking to meet MY MATE'S NEEDS OF (1) Acceptance, (2) Gratitude, (3) Affirmation, (4) Consideration, (5) Communication and (6) Affection.

LOVE IS GIVING THE GIFTS OF (1) Acceptance, (2) Gratitude, (3) Affirmation, (4) Consideration, (5) Communication and (6) Godly Affection to family members and to one another in the body of Christ.

Love is meeting these needs in the lives of others sacrificially, unselfishly, and unconditionally, as an act of worship to Jesus who is always worthy! As I give myself in seeking to meet these needs in my mate, I am loving her (or him) with the expressive love with which Jesus loves me!

(Acts 9:1-5) Moreover, I must remember that the way I treat my spouse and/or others who are in Christ— this is the way I actually treat Christ!

"Beloved, let us love one another. For love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God for God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

[This article was developed... and revised many times, from hand written notes taken at a Bible Conference in 1978]

Grace to all in Christ! James Bell

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!*** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!*)

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, May 18, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

SUNDAY SERVICES: May 9, 16, 23, 30

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

Additional Sunday Events for May 2021:

1. May 9, 5:00pm-6:30 pm- Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.

2. May 16, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.

3. May 23, 5:00pm-6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... NEW STUDY... to be announced!

4. May 30, 5:00pm-FIFTH SUNDAY Church-wide ** SINGING/PRAISE to the LORD; ** SCRIPTURE; and ** a message from the Word, Luke Haskins!

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— Come in by the back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! * Adult Prayer Service ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service

**IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all:
NO UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN
ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING!**

***** HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES**

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are presently in a state of high immune deficiency **or if** (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; **or if** you have • **Fever;** • Coughing; • • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], **please stay home!**

2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'— give sensitivity and respect one to another.

NOTE: In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: so as to SEEK TO HAVE A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM... I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.

LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. ***IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; use nearby SANITIZER.***

TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR MAY 9;

OR simply to connect with our YouTube page, for a variety of messages— GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org

****** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING: SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) —***

MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066

OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>