

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others! **Volume 47, No. 30, August 2, 2022** / 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!”***

The NON-OPITIONAL MIRACLE OF GOD’S LOVE!

In this study we will be called upon to HEED / OBEY / SUBMIT to 1 Corinthians 13 — WHY? *** *“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) *** **“If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us!”** (1 John 4:12) *** *“God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him!”* (1 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)*

GOD’S LOVE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NON-OPTIONAL!

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 HELL-BOUND, INIQUITY FLOODED noise makers! (1 John 4:7-8; Matthew 7:21-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)***

IN 1 Corinthians 13, GOD REVEALS 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)

***** 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 THE Divine 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...* and if any have NOT the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His (Rom. 8:9).

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? 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 merely 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 does not envy. 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 the first murder in human history; ENVY is 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, tongue, 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. I am either a person who continually thinks about my “rights” or I continually think about my “responsibilities.”
2. I am either thinking of “what someone owes me” or what I “owe” to others and God.
3. Love never pouts about “my place/my rights.”
4. I am 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 it— to have it 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 not 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. GOD'S LOVE IS 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

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28 / 2022

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **2. *** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES:

1. 8/7/22 ... NOON Fellowship Meal

2. 8/14/22 ... 5pm Training Faithful Men

3. 8/21/22 ... AFTER the MORNING service: THE LORD'S TABLE

4. 8/28/22 ... FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE at 5PM. (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service... and, this month, **Ken Smith** scheduled to preach.)

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!*)

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study, AUGUST 16, @ 11:00 AM**

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! ** Adult Prayer Service

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]**

***** 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... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING: <https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are 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! [A GUIDE— IF WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD GO TO WORK, THEN COME AND GATHER WITH THE SAINTS!]

2. WHEN YOU COME ... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to 'social distancing'... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, E, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And Ivermectin. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene — please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

4. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from ... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/> ////

Peter McCullough, MD, BRIEF. EXCELLENT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment:** [COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/)<https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>