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Extreme Makeover: Spirit Edition (Gal 5: 19-26)

(Part 2) "Love"

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1 Cor 13:4-7(NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

#### INTRODUCTION:

Today I want to talk to you about love and I brought with me a couple of statements made by kids about love. These statements come from the kid's book "Love is Like a Crayon". The first statement is from Camille, age 9. They asked Camille, "How do you get someone to fall in love with you?" She said, "Shake your hips and hope for the best." Dad is going to have to watch her. Tammy, age 10, was asked about kissing, "It is never OK to kiss a boy. They always slobber all over you and that is why I stopped doing it." Bob, age 9, - he must love Country and Western music - was asked if he knew any original love songs? "Yes I do, and here it is - 'I'm in love with you most of the time but don't bother me when I'm with my friends.'"

#### Misconceptions about love:

1. Love is only a FEELING. A lot of people think that love is a feeling that you have. So James Brown wrote his song: "I Feel Good". . .

HEY! I feel good! . . (na, na, na, na, na, na) . . . I knew that I would! (na, na, na, na, na, na, na)  
I feel good! . . (na, na, na, na, na, na, na) . . . I knew that I would! (na, na, na, na, na, na, na)  
So good, so good, I gotta you! WOW!

Well, I feel nice . . . a sugar and spice. Ya, I feel nice . . . a sugar and spice.  
A so nice, A so nice. I gotta you! OU!!

As a result, people are searching for that feeling and we talk about 'falling into love' and 'falling out of love'. Basically what we are saying is, we either are feeling love or it does not exist. Let me say this:

*The feelings of puppy love won't make it through the dog days of life.*

2. Love is UNCONTROLLABLE. This belief provides the basis for the person already married, falling in love with the man at the next desk in the office, or the woman down the hall. It enables us to say: "I couldn't help myself . . . I just fell in love". It also provides the foundation for people who are married to say: "I can't help it, I just don't love him/her

anymore.”

## TWO WAYS TO KEEP LOVE ALIVE:

### I. KNOW What Love Is:

#### 1. Love is a matter of CHOICE .

A husband says... “I don’t love my wife anymore.” Or a wife says the same about her husband. You’ve made choices day after day that did not honor God... you need to repent and choose to love again.

It is not something we are a victim of, it is something that we choose.

*And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.  
-Colossians 3:14*

Paul would not have asked us to put on something if we cannot control it. Love is a choice.

#### 2. Love is a matter of CONDUCT .

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.  
-1 John 3:18*

In other words, back up your words of love with your actions. A guy was telling her girlfriend how he would die for her . . . “I would die for you”, “I would die for you.” She finally said: “You’re always telling me that but you never do it.”

A wife comes into the family room while the husband is watching baseball. “You are always watching baseball, you must love baseball more than me.” He responds: “Yes I do honey, but I do love you more than basketball.”

### II. ACT Like Love Acts:

In the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, God’s word tells us how to “act like love acts.”

#### 1. Love is alive when it has PATIENCE , it is dying when it is hurried . . . it is dead when it cannot wait (1 Corinthians 4).

*Love is patient... -1 Corinthians 13.4.*

Patience isn’t easy. A husband is trying to console his frustrated wife who is taking care of their fussy baby. “You must have patience...the one who rocks the cradle, rules the world. She impatiently responds: “Then you come in here and rule the world for a while... I’m tired!”

“Love is patient.” That’s why, single people, intimacy can wait until marriage; because love is patient, so it can wait. If it is impatient, if it won’t wait... dump that guy! He doesn’t love you...because love is patient.

2. Love is alive when it CARES, it is dying when it forgets . . . it is dead when it ignores (1 Corinthians 13:4).

*...love is kind...-1 Corinthians 13.4*

Sometimes it is easier for us to be kind to someone new that we are meeting, than those we have known for so many years. It is easier to be kinder and more considerate to the person next door than to the ones behind our own doors. Kindness is demonstrated in the day-in, day-out grind of life.

If I had an ice-cream cone, I'd give you half. If I had six candies, you'd get three. If I had two apples, one would be yours. If I won the lottery, I'd send you a post card from Tahiti.

3. Love is alive when it is SECURE, it is dying when it starts doubting . . . it is dead when it stops trusting (1 Corinthians 13:4).

*It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. -1 Corinthians 13.4*

Envy, boasting, pride are all results of insecurity. Security truly is the key to a good relationship. If there no security and trust, you may do things together, you may go places, you may have conversation and laughs, but you have no meaningful relationship if you do not have security.

A circus performer was asked about the net below him. The performer said: "The basic purpose of that net is that it keeps me safe, but let me tell you what that net really does for me: it makes me a better performer. Because the net is there I feel secure. When I feel secure I am willing to risk more. I am willing to try an extra turn, I'm willing to do the extra trick that I wouldn't try at all, but that security enables me to stretch to do the best I can."

I believe this is true in any relationship. Where there is security, this enables the other person to reach their potential.

4. Love is alive when it is GIVING, it is dying when it begins to exchange . . . it is dead when it all it does is take (1 Corinthians 13:5).

*Love is...not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. -1 Corinthians 13:5*

God models the giving relationship in that He gave first. So many times we settle for something less, like negotiating, exchanging, keeping score. What a burden to live with - - I did this for them yesterday, now I'm going to wait and see if they return the favor to even the score. Then, if the other doesn't return the favor... well then I'm angry and get rude. Love is not this way . . . it is giving.

5. Love is alive when it ACTS its way into FEELING, it is dying when it feels but doesn't act . . . it is dead when it no longer acts or feels (1 Corinthians 13:7).

*It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. -1 Corinthians 13.7*

Actions tremendously impact our feelings. This is a fact. If you'll just smile for 15 seconds, you'll begin to feel the sensations of happiness. So let's get into action.

Don't be like the couple where the lady came into work complaining of a sore back from moving the furniture around. "Why didn't you wait until your husband got home?" "I could have, but the couch is easier to move when he's not on it!" Let's get into action! Your action will determine their feelings.

Jesus said: *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another* (John 13.34). If we love one another as Christ has loved us, then we'll need to go to the cross for others. This means we are to love people even when they are unloving...even when they don't deserve it. This means, no matter how they treat us, our response will be love. This really does take a miracle of the Lord's working in our lives.

#### APPLICATION:

##### 1. Love is ACTIVE.

If you love somebody, tell them today. Get on the phone. While Eddie Amine was head of the revolution in Uganda the lives of Christians were greatly endangered. The Bishop of Uganda, in one of his church services, knowing that his death was imminent, instructed his people that if they have somebody that they love . . . tell them quickly.

For some of you today, the best thing you could do with your Sunday afternoon would be to get on the phone, or get out some paper and write some notes. Now that will leave you vulnerable to embarrassment and rejection and even hurt but . . .

##### 2. Love is VULNERABLE.

You can either "stiff-arm" people to keep them on the outside, or you can open up your arms and let them in. Opening up will invite pain... but it is better than the alternative...

*Love anyone or anything and you will be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to be sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness, but in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken, but it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The only place outside of heaven where you can be safe from all the dangers of love is hell.*

-C.S. Lewis (The Four Loves)

##### 3. Love is POWERFUL.

The law may tell you what to do, but love gives the power to do it.

*Christ's love compels us...We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,  
as though God were making his appeal through us.*

-2 Corinthians 5:14

*A man from Ohio was a true prayer warrior who was awake at 4 a.m. every morning to pray. He was short in stature, and his prayer list was longer than he was tall. He prayed for every person, every institution, and every need on his list. He spent hours each day in intercessory prayer. One Sunday night during church he noticed a large man with a ruddy complexion in the back of the church who retained a cud of tobacco in*

*his jaw. At the invitation at the end of the service he felt impressed to invite the large man to the altar. When he spoke to the stranger about giving his heart to God, it so infuriated the large man that he spit tobacco juice in his face. The shorter man reached into his pocket, pulled out his handkerchief, and wiped off the stinking mess. He then looked at the man and said, "Sir, I love you, and I will be praying for you every day that you will give your heart to Jesus."*

*Months later a citywide camp meeting was held in the local auditorium. Halfway back in the auditorium a large man with a ruddy complexion stood [to give his testimony]. "I want to testify because I have been one of the meanest, vilest [of] sinners... several months ago I happened to be in church for the first time...A short man offered to pray with me at the altar, but instead I spat my tobacco juice into his face. That was the turning point in my life, because he said, "I love you, and I will be praying for you every day that you will give your heart to Jesus." I could tell he meant it. I could tell it wasn't just words. I saw it in his eyes.*

*I'm a truck driver and every day on the highway... all I could hear was that man's voice saying, "Sir, I love you, and I'm praying for you to give your heart to Jesus." Every night I laid down my head in some cheap motel beside the road and I would see his face in my dreams radiating the love of Jesus, saying, "Sir, I love you." A few weeks ago, I couldn't stand it any longer. I... called my wife, and told her I... wanted to get right with God. When I got home the preacher was there, and along with my wife, I knelt at the couch in the living room, repented of my sins, and gave my heart to the Lord. I don't know who that man was or where he is, but I hope that someday he will get the message that because of his love...I am now a child of God."*

*Down on the front row a quiet, unassuming, short man slightly lifted his hands to heaven and softly said, "Thank you Jesus. I got the message."*

Christ's love within empowers the extreme makeover. As you love someone today you have no idea what God will be able to do through that love. Love is powerful . . .and . . .

4. Love is UNCONDITIONAL.

By very definition of the word love . . . it has to be unconditional. It is redundant to talk about "unconditional" love. I have discovered *people need to be loved the most when they deserve it the least.*

It is the presence of love that makes any interaction special, remembered, and significant. *You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love.*

*-Henry Drummond*

**ACT IN LOVE TODAY!!**