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Practical Christianity - The Love Walk Pastor Charles Mendenhall

We are familiar with the old commandments, but Jesus said to us "a new commandment that I give you, that you love one another." This was not a commandment that they were familiar with.

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* KJV

A commandment is an order or direction in which there is no way of turning back. Jesus loves unconditionally, we aren't there yet, but that is our goal. A disciple is a disciplined follower, as we follow the love walk we will become disciplined followers.

1 Cor 14:1 *"Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching)."*
Amp

1 Cor 14:1 *"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy."*
KJV

This is a journey we began when we were born again, it is something that is not fully developed but will be as time goes on. We are to pursue love, love is self sacrificing and not something we eagerly pursue. We eagerly pursue the blessings, there is nothing wrong with that, but it can't be our priority. The blessings come by following Jesus and being obedient to Him. Walk in love and desire the gifts of the spirit.

In the love walk there may be anger, but the Word tells us to be angry, but sin not. There may be times while we are learning to walk in love, that we become angry. Some teach that if we are walking in love, our emotions will not allow us to become angry or mad, this is not true, these are emotions we have to learn to control with a greater measure of love.

Eph 4:26 *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:"* KJV

Jesus did not choose his apostles for what they were, but what they could become by following Him. The same is true for us, He sees us as what we can become as we pursue love and follow after Him.

James and John were known as the "sons of thunder" wanting to call down fire on people, but in later life, John was known as the apostle of love and the epistles that he wrote are about the importance of walking in love.

We cannot allow ourselves to think that as we pursue love that everything will be alright, it will not. Everything in the Bible works on the "seed principle". It's planted, grows up, may go

through a little difficulty, but as we take care of it, it produces fruit.

How do we learn to walk in love? We learn by facing challenging situations, we don't let the sun go down on our wrath where bitterness can get in, we learn to be angry and don't lose our temper. That is the plan of God. Learning the love walk will never be developed unless we encounter some opposition.

We are familiar with the old commandments, but Jesus gave us a new one, to love one another. This is a new way of thinking and doing to our senses. It takes a measure of discipline to walk in love. Each opposition gives us a choice and another opportunity to walk in love.

Pro 15:1 *"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."* KJV

The enemy's intent is to keep us stirred up and to rob us of God's peace on the inside, through our families, friends or others we come in contact with.

The love walk is something that has to be learned, we hear and then we practice. We will never develop the love walk without opposition. The love walk is not laying down and being run over, but is responding properly. We will have the emotions but will learn to control them and channel them properly. Example of Jesus in the temple, driving out the money changers, but He didn't let the sun go down on His anger.

1 Cor 14:1 *"Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does"* Message.

Scriptures like this helps us to make the right decision in what our response to opposition will be.

Col 3:14 *"And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]."* Amp

This is usually the last thing that we want to put on. Love is a measure of maturity, is a form of tough love. God's love binds everything together in harmony. Love is the mortar that keeps the bricks together. It will take a tough storm to tear apart. Dress yourselves in love first.

How do we develop the love of God in us? Unless we venture out into the field of life, we will never develop God's love. Love is the royal law, owe no man but to love him, we are indebted to one another with the God kind of love, it can never be paid off. Jesus paid the debt that He did not owe.

James 2:8 *"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"* KJV

Rom 13:8 *"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law"* KJV

1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 13 teaches on the gifts of the spirit and the manifestations of the gifts of the spirit and also the body of Christ liken to the human body and the ministry gifts. Hope, faith and love will never pass away. Love being the desired one.

1 Cor 13:13 *"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."* KJV

If we walk in love the gifts will flow, but a more excellent way, is developing the love walk. Walking out of love we will be in darkness and will cause us to stumble. The love walk will become powerful.

John 14:30-31 " *Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. 31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.*" KJV

When we follow the life of Jesus, we see that he had opposition continually however, His love walk was powerful.

Principles for developing the love walk.

1 John 2:5 " *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*" KJV

By keeping the word, God's love starts being developed in us. It is a challenge, but can be done. We will have to judge ourselves whether we are going to walk in love to be able to experience God's best.

Gal 5:6 " *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*" KJV

1 John 4:12 " *No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*" KJV

When a person offends us or does something that upsets us, it is like they are turning in a prayer request. We must handle them with love. This makes for the mature sons of God.

2 John 1:6 " *And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.*" KJV

2 John 1:6 " *Love means following his commandments, and his unifying commandment is that you conduct your lives in love. This is the first thing you heard, and nothing has changed.* " Message

Being hospitable to false teachers is not the thing to do, this is not love. You are endorsing what they teach. Christian people have a challenging time balancing the love walk with practicality, the book of Proverbs addresses all these things.

Col 3:14 " *And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*" KJV

1 John 3:14-15 " *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*" KJV

Love is a seed that has been planted and takes time to mature.

Eph 3:14-20 " *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That*

Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," KJV.

Jude 21 *"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."* KJV

Jude 21 *"But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love, keeping your arms open and outstretched, ready for the mercy of our Master, Jesus Christ. This is the unending life, the real life!"* Message

God's love cannot be measured; the enemy is always trying to keep us confined by not walking in love. God's love cannot fail, His love on the inside of us cannot fail, we will have opportunities but God's love goes out beyond that, love is just not head knowledge.