

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13:6

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE – PART 3

DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Love, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth, Witness, God

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

:4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; Love does not envy; Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **:5** does not **behave rudely**, does **not seek its own**, is **not provoked**, thinks **no evil**; **:6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth**; **:7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Joy To The World

is our theme as we enter into the weeks leading up to Christmas. I thought it best to continue on with our verse by verses study of 1 Corinthians 13 while at the same time staying true to our theme. And that will be easy to do. Because there can be no “finding the love of your life” without knowing that Jesus Christ has come.

Luke 2:8-14

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **:9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **:10** Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people**. **:11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **:12** And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” **:13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **:14** “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE

DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

1.) Is finding Him who is altogether - Humble

v.4

Love **suffers long** *and* is **kind**; love **does not envy**;
love **does not parade** itself, is **not puffed up**;

2.) Is finding Him who is altogether - Consistent

v.5

does not **behave rudely**, does not **seek its own**, is **not provoked**, thinks **no evil**;

3.) Is finding Him who is altogether - Pure

v.6

(Love) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

To better understand the thrust of this verse is to perhaps read it this way;
“**Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but it does rejoice in the truth.**”

3a.) By His purity He is able to cleanse me

v.6

(Love) **does not rejoice** in iniquity,

NOAH WEBSTER'S 1928 DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. To purify; to make clean; to remove the filth, or foul odor of any kind. The process of washing, rubbing, scouring, scraping, purging; the cleansing of the hands or face or garment; to cleanse an infected house. The healing & cleansing of a man. (*see Lev. 14, Num. 8, Ezek. 43*) To cleanse a crime or crime scene.

Rejoice **grk:** *cai÷rw chairo*, *khah'-ee-ro*; a deep, well-off, calm cheerfulness.
Glad-greeting, God speed.

In A Word:

We will not gloat over the failure of a friend or foe. We refuse to let our mind and motive be comforted when we hear of someone else's demise.

Do you have any enemies?

(I can give you some if you don't have any)

What is your attitude toward them? – you should lovingly pity them and pray for them.

The Bible shows Us That Jesus Loved To Do That:

It is a universal truth that Jesus Christ, while He was on earth and is now in heaven, Is All Together Pure. The Bible allows us the opportunity to judge Him - to comb-over His life and sayings. The Bible invites us to study Him and to examine Him. And if we do – what do we find? ***The pure spotless lamb of God that He is.***

(Love) **does not** rejoice in iniquity,

Our God of The Bible Is a Relational God.

In this relationship that is called "Christianity", there's almost a sterility about describing it with/by a word. Why? - - because a real, living and dynamic relationship cannot exist without the experience. It's by the experience that a relationship develops and grows.

((*Friend, can you say today that you have an experience with Jesus that's happening?*))

The epitome of what a relationship is to be.

The real Christian lives within a "Relationship of Experiences" of which - all other experiences can only hint of. It's by God's invitation that the greatest and most on-going relationship that a human can experience, is experienced.

John 17:1-3

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, :2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. :3 And **this is eternal life**, (1) that they may **know** You, the only true God, and (2) Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

This "Knowing" of Eternal Life is:

That God is to be made Known and Jesus Christ is to be Experienced.

We do not rejoice in sinful acts or conduct,
because it hurts the heart of our Lover-God
(tolerating sin and sinful conduct)

We do not rejoice in ungodly attitudes or deadly emotions
because it hurts the heart of our Lover-God
(condoning a loveless and mean spirit)

We do not rejoice in the display of evil and rebellion.
because it hurts the heart of our Lover-God
(ignoring the advancement of evil and cultural decay)

WE'RE TO BE "THE RESISTANCE"

Matthew 5:13

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

Matthew 5:14

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

A Warning to Us in This Culture of Ours.

Ephesians 5:11-12

Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. :12
For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Isaiah 62:6 & Ezekiel 33:6

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent....But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of just one of them, that watchmen will be taken away because of his sin, I will hold the watchman accountable

"Love will not be glad when one has gone astray"

Matthew 18:12-14

"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? :13 And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. :14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Love For Others Hates The Evil That Harms Them

Philippians 1:9

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more
in **knowledge** and all **discernment**,

(based on biblical knowledge, we separate good from evil)

One of Jesus' Greatest Opponents,

Luke 23:4

So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

Even Judas Iscariot Confessed,

Matthew 27:4

saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*"

The Apostle Peter Exclaimed,

Luke 5:8

When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

Do You See God (relational, I mean)?

(The light, fellowship, unity, obedience, witness)

1 John 1:5-9

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. :6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. :7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. :8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. :9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Titus 1:15-16

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. :16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

FINDING HIM WHO IS ALTOGETHER PURE

3b.) By His purity He is able to sustain me

1 Corinthians 13:6
but **rejoices** in the **truth**;

The keeping power of Jesus Christ

To see to it that – your hungering and thirsting for God is not in vain.

Listen - Jesus will see to it that you make it **all the way through**
unto the end of your life.

It's the Power Behind a Most Beloved Passage...

Psalm 23:1-4

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. :2 **He** makes me to lie down in green pastures; **He** leads me beside the still waters. :3 **He** restores my soul; **He** leads me in the paths of righteousness For **His** name's sake. :4 **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For (because) You are with me;**

THE PASTOR'S DAUGHTER. GOD'S IN THE SHADOWS.

... I read recently about a pastor whose wife died of cancer, leaving him with a little girl. One day as he and his little girl were walking, his daughter asked "daddy, why did mommy have to die?" That brokenhearted father couldn't think of how to comfort her or to answer her question – a few moments later a big bus passed by them and the shadow of that bus went right through them. Then he had the answer - - that widowed husband said "did you see that? The shadow went right by us - don't worry honey, mommy's at home with Jesus and she's waiting there for us. We'll see her again and it will be forever! – Just remember this, when we're with Jesus, the shadows cannot harm us!!!

Joshua 1:5c

...I will not leave you nor forsake you.
and it's Repeated in Hebrews 13:5

Psalm 63:7

Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.
:8 My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

Psalm 18:35 ESV

You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.

Psalm 40:2

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, *And* established my steps. :3 He has put a new song in my mouth - Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the LORD.

but rejoices in the **truth**,
"Love delights when others turn toward the truth"

Luke 15:11-24

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. :12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me.*" So he divided to them *his* livelihood. :13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. :14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. :15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. :16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything.* :17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! :18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, :19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' :20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. :21 And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' :22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. :23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it,* and let us eat and be merry; :24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

We're to be affected and afflicted when our Christian brothers or sisters go astray from Jesus.

1 Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent love for one another,
for "*love will cover a multitude of sins.*"

The Most Perfect Example Again...

John 8

Jesus shields the woman caught in the act of adultery and He deals perfectly with her, her accusers and with God's justice.

"It's only at the cross where mercy and truth can meet"

- Charles Spurgeon, 1861

(because that's where true Justice lives)

Love Loves The Truth.

So what about evangelism? We're living in an age that is seeking to make evangelism illegal in America. The UN tried it last year.

(There's only one thing worse than that and it's that most Christians would secretly be glad about it so they can hide behind an ungodly law)

1 Peter 1:22

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in **sincere love** of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

Psalm 33:13-15

The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. **:14** From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; **:15** He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

"Plant a thought, reap your action. Plant an action and you will reap your habit. Plant a habit and you'll reap your character. Plant character and you'll reap a destiny."

1 Samuel 16:7b

...For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Psalm 51:8-12

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. **:9** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. **:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right* spirit within me. **:11** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. **:12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death, Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you. Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that *"if you would call on the name of the LORD you shall be saved."* Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **:10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

End of Study

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