

Are You Acting Like the World?

We live in a world in which everybody talks about everyone else to the point that comedians and talk show hosts have become wealthy from criticizing others. The only way this could happen is that their audience enjoys hearing their criticisms. That same kind of spirit has gotten over into the church, the body of Christ. And that is what has hindered the miracle working power of God from manifesting to the degree that it should be today. Until we come into one accord, and have no division or schism, strife or discord, we won't have the power of God turned up and in manifestation the way it should be. The devil uses division; he thrives on gossiping mouths and we limit God from working when we don't allow the love of Christ to constrain us. **For the love of Christ constraineth us...** 2 Corinthians 5:14

We need to strive to love the brethren, and make it a point never to talk about anyone else in a gossiping, condescending, or criticizing manner. The only way this is going to be accomplished is to separate ourselves from that old way and separate ourselves to the Word of God and prayer. An indication that you've been putting enough time in God's Word is that you're known for not talking about anyone in critical tones. We all need to work on this, and it's not something you can afford to ignore. For faith to work, it's got to be backed in power by the love of God. One cannot afford to ignore love scriptures, for when they do, they forfeit their hedge of protection and fall prey to Satan and his attacks.

2 Timothy 2:22-26: Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

1 John 3:18: **My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.**

1 John 5:18: **We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.**

If you keep yourself built up spiritually by staying in the Word every day, and in prayer, obeying God and walking in love, Satan won't be able to touch you, nor will he be able to take you captive at his will. The love of God comes from your heart; and there is no false pretense with it. We've all seen the two sisters in church acting like they love one another, but are just putting on a show. And we knew when we saw it, the cat fight was coming! So many public displays of love are just that: public displays, and not the God kind of love. It's worldly love and not a godly love.

The Love of God

The God kind of love is unconditional, never changes, does a lot of things without any recognition, gives in secret, and is rewarded openly.

Matthew 6:4: **That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.**

Love does not attract attention to itself, because it is not self seeking. It doesn't have to tell other people what it did in order to solicit *ooh's* and *ahhh's*. It always gives God the praise and won't accept any self recognition. It doesn't talk about "I" or "me," but talks about Him and His.

The gauge to go by for walking in the God kind of love is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMP. I like to confess these scriptures using the personal pronoun "I". I make this confession of faith every morning. I say, **I endure long and am patient and kind. I am never envious or boil over with jealousy. I'm not boastful or vainglorious, and do not display myself haughtily. I am not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride). I'm not rude (unmannerly) and do not act unbecomingly. I do not insist on my own rights or my own way, for I am not self-seeking. I am not touchy or fretful or resentful; I take no account of the evil done to me [I pay no attention to a suffered wrong]. I do not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoice when right and truth prevail. I bear up under anything and everything that comes, and I'm ever ready to believe the best of every person. My hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and I endure everything [without weakening]. God's love in me never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].**

Confessing these scriptures and meditating on them will help you to become less critical and judgmental of others. It's better that you and I walk in love and do the praying and interceding for others, and let God do the judging. He'll do a lot better job of it than we will. He's much more patient and full of mercy, so let God do the judging, and you do the restoring. God told you not to judge in Matthew 7, but He did tell you to restore (Galatians 6:1). You're not going to be condemned by God for helping to restore others, but you will be judged if you judge.

Matthew 7:1-5: Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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