

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

THE LOVE CHALLENGE

1 Corinthians 13:5-6 Jeff Schreve

Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

How are you doing with the challenge of agape love?

1. Agape love does not hold grudges.

A. It forgives those who hurt us.

"But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'" Matthew 18:28

"But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." Matthew 6:15

B. It does not let resentment and bitterness find a home.

BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. Ephesians 4:26-27



C. It does not remember the offense against the offender.

"I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 43:25

2. Agape love does not rejoice in sin.

A. It does not rejoice in personal sin.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. Romans 6:20-21

B. It does not rejoice in another person's sin.

It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

* Gossip is sin enjoyed vicariously.

Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Galatians 6:1

Without wood a fire goes out, and without gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal fuels burning coals and wood fuels fire, so a quarrelsome person fuels a dispute. The words of a gossip are swallowed greedily, and they go down into a person's innermost being. Proverbs 26:20-22 GNB

3. Agape love rejoices in the truth.

A. Truth and righteousness are inseparably linked.

*And justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away;
For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. Yes, truth is lacking. Isaiah 59:14-15*

B. Agape love walks in the truth and proclaims the truth.

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ. Ephesians 4:14-15

What do you need to do today to put agape love into action?