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THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE PART 2

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 Second Ebenezer Church



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 2)

I. Introduction

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



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1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

Do everything in love

PROVERBS 3:3-4

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.



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II. KEY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT REAL LOVE

A. KEY OBSERVATION #4: THE RIGHT ATTITUDES OBSERVATION

**WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT MINDSET TO LOVE THE
RIGHT WAY**



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PHILIPPIANS 2:5

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

PROVERBS 23:7 (KJV)

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.



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HIGHLY EMPOWERING ATTITUDES ABOUT LOVE

1. LOVE IS A DEBT WE OWE (*Romans 13:8*)

God and others have given us so much love that we didn't deserve, that we're forever indebted to pay it forward to others. Simply put, we owe love to others because others have given love to us. We won't always feel like loving others, but we must do it anyway. Others won't always deserve our love, but we must give it to them anyhow. The Bible states that as followers of Jesus, we're slaves or servants of Christ. In a nutshell that means, because he died on the cross for our sins, we must love people on the earth for him. In other words, the primary way that we pay Jesus Christ back for all that he has done, is doing and will do is to love people. When we fail at loving people it's like we're renegeing on our love debt.



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2. LOVE IS THE SERVICE WE PROVIDE (*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*)

One of the most profound revelations about the calling to follow Jesus is that it puts us in the love business. Simply put we get paid to love. We get extra bonuses for love. We hear well done my good and faithful servant based on our love. We should provide love to a myriad of people in a myriad of ways. Just like Baskin Robbins provide 31 flavors of ice cream, we provide 31 flavors of love. We show love to people by feeding them, clothing them, standing up for them, being there for them and treating them like they are valuable. It's so important they we never lose sight of the fact that being a Christ follower is a love thing. Everything that Jesus did was about love. Everything that we do, as his followers, should be about love.



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3. LOVE IS A PRIVILEGE WE HAVE *(2 Corinthians 5:20)*

Our greatest privilege as Christ followers is the opportunity we have to share and spread the love of God in the earth. Love is both a duty and privilege we have as Ambassadors of Christ. I believe it's more of a privilege than a duty. Yes loving people can be very difficult at times, yet it's highly rewarding. The fact that God allows us to touch the lives of others with his proverbial finger of love is a privilege not a burden. When God gets ready to pour out His love on someone he uses me. Though we sometimes have to sacrifice and suffer to love difficult people in hard ways, it's still an privilege to be God's chosen vessel of love. We are able to love with greater passion and proficiency when we remember that love is a great privilege.



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B. KEY OBSERVATION #5: THE RIGHT ABILITIES
OBSERVATION

WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT SKILL SET TO LOVE THE
RIGHT WAY

PROVERBS 22:29

Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.



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THE SPECIAL SKILL SET OF LOVE

1. THE ATTENTIVENESS SKILL (*James 1:19*)

Attentiveness is the ability to pay and give attention to others. It's being generally aware of what's going on in their life and responding in a caring and encouraging manner. People tend to feel loved by us when they receive healthy and relevant attention from us. The interesting thing is that though it pays a lot of emotional dividends, it doesn't cost any money to pay attention to others.

Calling or visiting with people during their tough times is often more appreciated than loaning them money. Noticing when someone has gotten a new hairstyle or lost weight can make people feel important to us. When it comes to giving and paying attention, remember it's the little things done consistently that makes the biggest difference.



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2. THE ACCEPTANCE SKILL (*Romans 15:7*)

Acceptance is the ability to welcome and receive people into our heart even if we disagree with their world view or personal practices. It's important to remember that acceptance does not equal agreement. We can disagree with someone and accept them at the same time. It's also important to remember that we don't have to like someone to accept them. We should accept people because they were created by God, and are members of the human family. Christ accepts us in spite of our issues, likewise, we should do the same for others. No one, including ourselves will ever be without issues on this side of heaven. The biggest key to acceptance is to remind ourselves that though we hate the sin, we must love the sinner.



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3. THE AFFECTION SKILL (*Philippians 1:8*)

Affection is the ability to be friendly, warm and tender with others. It's treating people like they're special to God and you. A chosen few of us have been given an affectionate personality, while most of us have to work intentionally and strategically on being affectionate. It's important to remember that simple words and acts of affection can go a long way in making people feel loved. For example, we should smile at people often, and share words of kindness and support with them. We should greet them in affectionate ways, and behave as if we're happy to see them. We should use terms of endearment when appropriate like sweetheart, honey, big fella, homeboy, big time and my boo.



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C. KEY OBSERVATION #6: THE **RIGHT APPROACH** OBSERVATION

WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT APPROACH TO
LOVE THE RIGHT WAY

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.



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THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF OUR APPROACH TO LOVE

1. THE UNSELFISH APPROACH TO LOVE (*Philippians 2:3*)

The most important aspect to our approach to love is being unselfish. When we're unselfish in our love, good things happen in our relationships. The idea with unselfish love is loving people the way they need to be loved, and not the way we want to love them. It's placing their getting love needs over our giving love needs. We sometimes allow ourselves to get upset at others because they don't appreciate the way we like to show them love. It's important to remember that God didn't want to send his only begotten Son to die for the sins of the world, we needed him too. Jesus didn't want to die on the cross for the sins of the world, we needed him too. Unselfish love allows us to be more relevant in the way we love others.



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2. THE UNCONDITIONAL APPROACH TO LOVE (*Romans 5:8*)

The idea of unconditional love is both conceptually and concretely promoted in the Word of God. Unconditional love denotes several very important things about the way we should love others. We must love others when the conditions are good and bad. We must love others when it does and doesn't make sense. We must love others when we do or don't feel like it. We must love others when we think they do or don't deserve it. That's the big idea of unconditional love. The powerful thing about loving others unconditionally is that it brings great stability and consistency to our love life. It prevents our love from wavering up and down, in and out and back and forth. Love is not real unless it's unconditional.



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3. THE UNRELENTING APPROACH TO LOVE (*1 Corinthians 13:7*)

Being unrelenting in our approach to love means that we never give up on loving others. We continue to bring love to others no matter what they say or do. They may fail miserably repeatedly but we love them remarkably repeatedly. We may make needed adjustments in the types of love we give but we continue to love people never the same. The key to being unrelenting in our love is not allowing ourselves to get discouraged or distracted in our love for others. People will say and do things that challenge our desire or dedication to love for them. We must stick with the biblical game plan that God has given us to love others. Be not weary in love doing for we shall reap a love harvest if we do not faint.