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THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE PART 6

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Second Ebenezer Church



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 6)

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.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

Do everything in love



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II. KEY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE RIGHT WAY TO LOVE

A. KEY OBSERVATION #16: THE RIGHT DEVELOPMENT OBSERVATION

WE NEED CONTINUING EDUCATION IN THE AREA OF LOVE TO LOVE THE RIGHT WAY



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MATTHEW 9:20-22 (KJV)

And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: ²¹ For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. ²² But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.



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GROWING OUR CAPACITY TO LOVE

1. IDENTIFY OUR LOVE ISSUES

Love issues are the struggles or shortcomings we have that prevent or limit us from loving ourselves, God and others the right way. We all have shortcomings in the area of love at any given time that need to be identified and addressed. The only way that we can make progress and experience success in our love life is if we're completely honest and transparent about our love issues. If we have no clue about what our love issues are, all we have to do is ask those who are closest to us. Make sure you give them permission to be totally honest with you. Another good practice would be to ask our heavenly father.

Loving conditionally, hating enemies, and being fake with love are a few examples of our love issues.



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2. IMPROVE OUR LOVE INTERVENTIONS

Love interventions are solutions for resolving our love issues. If we're going to love the right way, we must continually search for solutions to resolve our troubling love issues. The Holy Scriptures is one of the best places to find solutions for our love issues. God addresses extensively both the issues and interventions of love in his holy word. We need to make a commitment to read it daily and study it diligently to find divine solutions for our human love issues. Another good source of solutions for our love issues is the Holy Spirit. He is the great teacher and comforter that God has given us when it comes to matters of love. He can give us the solutions to take an anointed leap forward in our love. Prayer, bible study, fasting and accountability partners are a few examples of our love interventions.



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3. INCREASE OUR LOVE IMPLEMENTATION

Love implementation is the application of your love interventions. Just like faith without works is dead, love solutions without application is meaningless. In other words, it's one thing to be given the solutions to resolving our love issues, it's another thing to apply them to the situations of our lives regularly and rightly. Many of us have already been given the remedies for overcoming our issues of love, but for one reason or another have refused to implement them in the context of our daily love lives. Many of us have read the word of God on love. We have read some of the top books on love. We have attended classes and seminars on love. We have had good conversations on love. Now it's time to excel at the doing.

Forgiving others, bearing with others and giving to others are good examples of love implementation.



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**B. KEY OBSERVATION #17: THE RIGHT
DISCIPLINE OBSERVATION**

**WE NEED TO RECEIVE AND GIVE THE
RIGHT KIND OF DISCIPLINE TO LOVE THE
RIGHT WAY**



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KEY INGREDIENTS OF THE RIGHT KIND OF DISCIPLINE

1. THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE OF DISCIPLINE

The right perspective of discipline can be a game changer in how we receive and give discipline. Most people tend to view discipline as a bad or negative thing, when it's actually a good and necessary thing.

The right kind of discipline is one of the most loving things a person can do. The bible states in Proverbs 13:24, "that when parents really love their children they will discipline them." it also states in that same passage that, " when parents don't discipline their children they hate them." That is a very interesting perspective on discipline to say the least. We see the same perspective being applied in Hebrews chapter twelve to God our heavenly father in his relationship with us. He disciplines us because he loves us. If people were to truly see discipline as an act of love, it would alter the way we give and receive it.



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2. THE RIGHT PRACTICE OF DISCIPLINE

Approaching our practice of discipline the right way is a crucial aspect of whether it will be received and bear its intended fruit. It's interesting to note that God doesn't just discipline us, but he gives us the right kind of discipline. In the spirit of love parents must give children the right kind of discipline. Employers must give employees the right kind of discipline. Leaders must give followers the right kind of discipline. The justice system must give law breakers the right kind of discipline. Negligent and abusive police officers must receive the right kind of discipline. Being right in our practice of discipline means things like doing it in love, making sure the punishment fits the crime and not showing favoritism.



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3. THE RIGHT PROCESS OF DISCIPLINE

The right process of discipline is more important than most people realize.

There is actually a sensible order to how we should go about giving discipline to others. For example, it's very crucial that people know why they're being disciplined before it occurs, as opposed to after the fact. The interesting thing about discipline is that if we do the right things in the wrong order it brings a measure of wrongness to the rightness of discipline. We have to make sure that we do the first things of discipline first, and the last things of discipline last. We don't want to save the first things for last or do the last things first. People are more open and responsive to discipline when they are processed properly and rightly.



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C. KEY OBSERVATION #18: THE RIGHT DISTANCE OBSERVATION

**WE NEED TO SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM SOME
PEOPLE TO LOVE THEM THE RIGHT WAY**



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REVEALING QUESTIONS ABOUT HEALTHY DISTANCE

1. HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN HEALTHY DISTANCE IS NEEDED?

Healthy distance is when we separate or isolate ourselves from unhealthy individuals so that we can love them the right way. We know that we or they need healthy distance when we or they are taking advantage of one another. Also when we have an enabling relationship versus an empowering one. Another clear sign that healthy distance is needed is that we have tried repeatedly to coexist in a healthy way with little to no success. There is damage being done to one or more parties involved. The efforts given to prevent or limit damage has not worked. The guidelines that have been put in place to remove or minimize the unhealthy behavior in the relationship has not been respected. Radical change is needed.



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2. HOW DO WE CREATE HEALTHY DISTANCE?

We create a healthy distance with unhealthy people by avoiding sharing the same physical spaces with them. Which means someone needs to move if we're living in the same resident together. If we're working or attending a church together, the best option may be to simply stay away from one another's space if at all possible. If that doesn't work out then it may require something as radical as a switch of jobs or change of churches. Some relationships can be so toxic that an actual geographic relocation may even be the wisest option. Some of us can't even afford to share the same city or state with one another. The physical or emotional distance provides us with the space to rebuild healthy love again.



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3. HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN WE CAN REMOVE THE DISTANCE?

The separation and isolation that is sometimes needed to love people the right way may end up being just seasonal. God may use that time to bring about much needed changes in the lives of individuals and relationships. One sign that the season of separation is coming to a close is when it seems like God is encouraging a reunion through a still small voice or series of events. Either one or more of parties involved appear to have made healthy changes that will allow healthy interaction to be a reality. If you remove the distance and find things are still unhealthy, then simply install the distance again and try again at a later date. There is nothing wrong with acknowledging that the reunion was premature.