



Pastor Phil Carr

THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE PART 8

August 24, 2016



Second Ebenezer Church



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 8)

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.



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 8)

A. KEY OBSERVATION #22: THE RIGHT ORDER
OBSERVATION

WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE ORDER AND
IMPLICATIONS OF LOVE TO LOVE THE RIGHT
WAY



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 8)

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GSO ORDER OF LOVE

1. THE IMPLICATIONS OF LOVING GOD

Our first order of business when it comes to love is God. Since God is our most important relationship, it would stand to reason that He's also our most crucial customer of love. There are several reasons why our love should start and end with God. Firstly, God is love. The very essence of his being is love. No other entity can claim that distinction. Secondly, God is the source of all love. Not only did God create man in his image and his likeness, but he created love to help mankind survive and thrive. Therefore we must love God right, to love self and others the right way. Simply put, loving God is keeping his commandments.

2. THE IMPLICATIONS OF LOVING SELF

Our second order of business when it comes to love is self. We must have a healthy love of self to display a healthy love of others. That's why Jesus mention that the second great commandment is to "love your neighbor as you love yourself". (Matthew 22:39) the love of self is our most interesting and ignored love relationship. It's the one that is most often minimized or taken for granted. Most people fail to make the crucial connection between the love of ourselves and the love of others. There are some unusual and challenging acts of love for others, that will only be attempted and achieved with a healthy love of self.



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THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GSO ORDER OF LOVE CONT'D.

3. THE IMPLICATIONS OF LOVING OTHERS

Our third order of business when it comes to love is others. The love of others isn't less important than the love of self and the love of God. It just comes last in the healthy flow of love. We must have a healthy love of God and self to love others the right way. We need the help of a healthy love for God and self to love others sincerely, unconditionally and continually. Loving others is the clearest proof for our love for God, and the ultimate destination of our love. Jesus told his followers", How can you say you love God who you haven't seen, and you don't love your brother who you see everyday". Loving others proves we love God.



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B. KEY OBSERVATION #23: THE RIGHT OPTICS
OBSERVATION

**WE MUST DISPLAY A LOVING LOOK TO
LOVE THE RIGHT WAY**



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UNLEASHING THE LOOK OF LOVE

1. THE INVITING LOOK

An inviting look is a warm and friendly smile or disposition that draws and welcomes people into our company. The spirit of love begins with an inviting look. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was always making earnest attempts to get to people, and allow them to get to him. It's confusing for many that Jesus had a look that said come unto to me, while some of his followers sport looks that say get away from me. My favorite quote by the great Indian leader Mahatmas Gandhi is, "I love your Christ, I do not like your Christians, they are so unlike your Christ. Jesus had a look that said, "Whosoever will let them come."

2. THE INTERESTED LOOK

An interested look is an attentive and responsive gaze that communicate to people that who they are, or what they're saying is important to us. We can't allow ourselves to get distracted by things going on around us, or in us when conversing with others. The loving thing to do is to give our undivided attentions during conversations. If we're interrupted, or must address other things, we should apologetically ask them to excuse us. The look of love says, I'm interested in you as a person. I want to know what's going on in your life. People don't have to be interesting for us to show them interest. Jesus made time, so should we.



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UNLEASHING THE LOOK OF LOVE – CONT'D.

3. THE INTIMATE LOOK

The intimate look is a friendly and affectionate presence and demeanor that makes people feel special and important to us. People shouldn't have to do anything special for us to treat them like they're special. People shouldn't have to be family or friends for us to treat them like family or friends. They are either apart of the household of faith, or the human family in general. Those are good enough reasons to display a measure of intimacy with others. We should open up and enlarge our circle of intimacy for the sake of love. The bible tells us to greet one another with a holy kiss, holy hug and special greetings.



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C. KEY OBSERVATION #24: THE RIGHT OBJECTIVITY OBSERVATION

**WE MUST SEE OUTSIDE AND BEYOND
OURSELVES TO LOVE THE RIGHT WAY**



The Revolution of Love – (PART 8)

INCREASING OUR OBJECTIVITY

1. START AIMING AND STOP AVOIDING

For the sake of love, we must make it our objective to be more objective. We must come from a place of objectivity to say and do loving things in loving ways. Objectivity is not normal or natural for anyone. We must work hard at being objective to become more objective. Most people fail at objectivity either because they're not trying at all, or aren't trying hard enough. Interestingly, Job's friends weren't even trying to be objective with his situation. We often commit the same sin when dealing with the situations of our family members and friends. We should make it our goal to see things from the point of view of others and God.

2. START ASSESSING AND STOP ASSUMING

The number one culprit of limited objectivity is assumptions. Human nature causes us to assume we know or understand someone or something versus assessing them from an objective point of view. Job's friends did a lot of assuming, and therefore was extremely unloving to him. They probably would have had a whole different take on Job's suffering situation had they assessed it properly, as oppose to assuming. The suffering of Job teaches us that someone can look wrong and be right. It is a general truth that people reap what they Sow. However, that doesn't mean that everyone who reap good is good, or who reap bad is bad.



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INCREASING OUR OBJECTIVITY – CONT'D.

3. START ASKING AND STOP ANSWERING

Job friends were victims of unhealthy subjectivity instead of victors of healthy objectivity. Part of the problem was that they seemed to think more highly of themselves than they should. That could be seen in the fact that they were asking far too few questions, and giving far too many answers. One of the keys to healthy objectivity is to ask the right people, the right questions at the right time. Job's friends seem to be too full of themselves to take a posture of questions asking. This was confirmed by God's chastisement of them in the end, and his vindications of Job.