



Pastor Phil Carr

THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE PART 9

August 31, 2016



Second Ebenezer Church



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 9)

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 THE RIGHT WAY TO LOVE

A. KEY OBSERVATION #25: THE RIGHT BEAUTY OBSERVATION

WE MUST MAKE THE MOST IMPORTANT FORMS OF BEAUTY MORE IMPORTANT TO LOVE THE RIGHT WAY



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1 SAMUEL 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

PROVERBS 31:30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.



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THE TRANSFORMING FILTERS OF BEAUTY

1. THE HEART OF GOD

The heart of God is perfect while the heart of man is flawed. The heart of God speaks to his divine desires and will for how we go about determining and measuring beauty in someone or something. When we measure beauty using the heart of man we tend to prioritize and preference lower forms of beauty over the higher ones. When we measure beauty using the heart of God we're able to place all forms of beauty in their proper order of true significance and value. We must continually pray and ask God to manifest and multiply his heart in us. We must also pay close attention to God's heart as it is outlined in his word.



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2. THE EYES OF GOD

There is a true saying that goes beauty is in the eye of the beholder. One of the many implications of that saying is that if we want to know who and what is beautiful to God, we must view them through his eyes. We often miss or overlook the beauty of someone or something because we're looking through our own eyes, and not Gods. We must continually pray and ask God to touch our eyes so that we can see what he sees, the way he sees it. We must also be intentional about viewing someone or something through the lens of Scriptures. Viewing things through the Word of God is viewing them from the vantage point of God.



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3. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

God has given us his Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in our assessments and adjustments to the beauty of someone or something. Often we don't realize how beautiful someone or something is until the Holy Spirit enlightens and illuminates the eyes of our understanding. Unfortunately, we don't rely on the Holy Spirit as much as we should. We have a supernatural force waiting to assist us with our engagement and enjoyment of the beauty of life, and we choose to trust our own judgments instead. Our human tendencies is to see beauty through the eyes of the flesh. The Holy Spirit empowers us to see beauty through the eyes of faith.



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B. KEY OBSERVATION #26: THE RIGHT BALANCE OBSERVATION

WE MUST MAINTAIN BALANCE IN THE
KEY AREAS OF LIFE TO LOVE THE RIGHT
WAY



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PROVERBS 30:7-9

“Two things I ask of you, LORD; do not refuse me before I die: ⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. ⁹ Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.



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THE KEY VEHICLES OF BALANCE

1. SEEING THINGS IN BALANCE

Seeing things in balance is seeing the total picture of someone or something. It's seeing both the strengths and weaknesses, good and bad of someone and something, and allowing them to be meshed together in our final assessment or judgment. An excellent example of balance is when the Bible says we shouldn't think more highly of ourselves than we ought. The balance is to not think more lowly of ourselves or others than we ought either. We must strive to see the good and bad side of everything simultaneously to be balanced. We're better able to balance out how we see things when we identify our natural blind spots with things.



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2. SAYING THINGS IN BALANCE

Saying things in balance is being careful not to over state or under state your feelings or thoughts to others. It's important to remember that words often can't be taken back. Once they are stated that will have an effect one way or another.

That's why James 2:19 says, "we should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." We should take our time speaking so that we can say things in balance, as often as possible. Real love works very hard to say things to others in the best and most balanced way possible. We're better able to balance out how we articulate when we stay mindful of our natural verbal extremes.



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3. DOING THINGS IN BALANCE

Doing things in balance is being very calculated and measured in the things we do. It's making sure we don't over react or under react to the actions of others. Just because others may do things in an extreme manner don't mean we should react in an extreme manner. The idea with doing things in balance is, we shouldn't over or under give. We shouldn't over or under serve. We shouldn't over or under protect. We shouldn't over or under discipline. We shouldn't over or under think. We shouldn't over or under prepare. We are better able to balance out our extreme behaviors when we're watchful and intentional to avoid them.



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C. KEY OBSERVATION #27: THE RIGHT
BOUNDARIES OBSERVATION

WE MUST IDENTIFY AND FOLLOW GOOD
AND GODLY GUIDELINES TO LOVE THE
RIGHT WAY



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MATTHEW 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[c] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[d] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

PSALMS 16:6-7

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. ⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.



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THE WRONG BOUNDARIES

1. I WON'T LOVE PEOPLE IF I DON'T LIKE THEM, OR THEY DON'T LIKE ME

It's important to remember that we don't have to like people to love them. In fact, the more we love them the more we will end up liking them.

2. I WON'T LOVE PEOPLE WHO DON'T APPRECIATE OR RECIPOCATE MY LOVE

True love is unconditional, therefore people shouldn't have to appreciate or reciprocate our love. Love is something that we should be paying forward.

3. I WON'T LOVE PEOPLE IF I CAN'T SEE WHY THEY NEED OR DESERVE MY LOVE

We should love people exclusively and entirely because God said so. Most people we encounter will not deserve our love. We must trust God.



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THE RIGHT BOUNDARIES

1. I WILL ALLOW MY FAITH, AND NOT MY FLESH TO LEAD ME IN MATTERS OF LOVE

The love of God is a faith thing. Our flesh can't understand or use love the way God intends. Love must be guided by our faith from start to finish.

2. I WILL SAY AND DO THE RIGHT THINGS EVEN WHEN OTHERS SAY AND DO THE WRONG THINGS

We can't base our love on what others say or do. Even when they love wrong, we must love right. When they disrespect us we must respect them.

3. I WILL LOVE PEOPLE WHETHER I FEEL LIKE DOING IT OR NOT

There will be many moments in our lives where we won't feel like loving others. Love is a feeling, but it's not about feelings. Feelings can't be trusted.