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THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE PART 10

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 Second Ebenezer Church



THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE (PART 10)

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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1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

MATTHEW 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’



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II. KEY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE RIGHT WAY TO LOVE

A. KEY OBSERVATION #28: THE RIGHT SUBMISSION OBSERVATION

WE MUST SUBMIT IN A GOOD AND GODLY WAY TO LOVE THE RIGHT WAY



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ROMANS 13:1-5

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.



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THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF SUBMITTING IN A LOVING WAY

THE DO'S OF LOVING SUBMISSION

1. DO BE COOPERATIVE AND NOT COMPLICATED

We should strive to make giving leadership to us as easy as possible. We should work to take any and all complication out of dealing with us. Most of us are naturally complicated followers.

2. DO BE CORRECTIVE AND NOT STUBBORN

We should seek to make improvements anytime we recognize, or are told we're missing the mark as a follower. We can't allow our egos to get in the way. Making corrections is the mark of a mature follower.

3. DO BE COMPASSIONATE AND NOT UNCARING

Contrary to popular opinion, being an authority figure is more difficult than being a follower. A good follower not only acknowledges this reality, but they provide a lot of compassion for their leaders



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THE DON'T'S OF LOVING SUBMISSION

1. DON'T RESIST UNNECESSARILY

The goal of a good follower should be to resist the leadership request and guidance of their authority figures as little as possible. The general rule of thumb is that followers should do whatever they're told, unless it's illegal, immoral or impossible.

2. DON'T REPRESENT POORLY

One of the important functions of a follower is to represent their authority figures in the assignments they have been delegated. Children represent their parents everywhere they go. Likewise, we represent God, and other authority figures wherever we go.

3. DON'T RESPOND DISRESPECTFULLY

Probably our most important role as a follower of authority is to give them the respect they deserve given their role in our life. Even when they are disrespectful to us, we must be respectful to them. We should deal with their disrespect respectfully.



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B. KEY OBSERVATION #29: THE RIGHT SACRIFICE OBSERVATION

WE MUST SACRIFICE IN A GOOD AND
GODLY WAY TO LOVE THE RIGHT WAY



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LUKE 18:28-30

Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" ²⁹ "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."



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THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF SACRIFICING IN A LOVING WAY

THE DO'S OF LOVING SACRIFICE

1. DO PRAY FOR WHICH SACRIFICES WE SHOULD MAKE AT A GIVEN TIME

We shouldn't shoot from the hip when choosing the sacrifices we should make. Not all sacrifices are good or needed. Prayer allows us to discern the voice of God on the sacrifices he desires for us. Remember obedience is better than sacrifices.

2. DO PLAN FOR WHICH SACRIFICES TO MAKE, AND HOW TO BEST MAKE THEM

Making sacrifices become easier and more doable when we take time to plan them out. Most time we should avoid knee jerk reactions with our sacrifices. Some sacrifices of the sort where we need to plan them out financially, and otherwise to pull the off.

3. DO PUSH YOURSELF TO MAKE HARD SACRIFICES WHEN THINGS ARE TOUGH

Some sacrifices will come with a high degree of difficulty. They will require us to push ourselves long and hard to get the job done. We won't always have the luxury of having other people push us. We must cultivate the ability of pushing ourselves.



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THE DON'T'S OF LOVING SACRIFICE

1. DON'T RESTRICT SACRIFICES TO STUFF YOU DON'T MIND GIVING UP

Some of us don't mind making sacrifices unless we're required to give up our most important practices or possessions. We can't allow anything to be off limits in our sacrifices. We must be willing and ready to give up our golden calf and sacred cows.

2. DON'T REMIND PEOPLE OF SACRIFICES THAT YOU'VE MADE FOR THEM

We ought to make sacrifices because it's the right thing to do. We should also make them out of the goodness of our hearts. We should avoid at all cost the unhealthy practice of reminding people of the sacrifices we have, or are making on their behalf.

3. DON'T RESCIND SACRIFICES JUST BECAUSE THEY DON'T TURN OUT GOOD

Sometimes we make sacrifices for a season, but stop making them because we don't achieve the results we hoped for. Sacrifices should be made unconditionally. We may or may not have achieved the desired results. The sacrifice is still a way of expressing love.



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C. KEY OBSERVATION #30: THE RIGHT
SUFFERING OBSERVATION

WE MUST SUFFER IN A GOOD AND
GODLY WAY TO LOVE THE RIGHT WAY



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PHILIPPIANS 1:29

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

1 PETER 4:16

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.



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THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF SUFFERING IN A LOVING WAY

THE DO'S OF LOVING SUFFERING

1. DO REPENT OF ANY SUFFERING CAUSED BY YOUR WRONG DOING

Some of the suffering we go through we bring on ourselves. We should repent as soon as possible anytime we're going through suffering of our own doing. This is one of the ways we express love to ourselves, and end any divine punishment we incur.

2. DO REQUEST GOD'S GRACE TO HANDLE YOUR SUFFERING WELL

The reason why some people handle suffering better than others is because they have been given more grace than others. The grace of God is a secret weapon for handling suffering well. Grace allows us to endure and excel in spite of the suffering.

3. DO REJOICE IN GOD'S GOODNESS IN SPITE OF YOUR SUFFERING

One of the most beautiful sights to behold is that of a person who is full of joy in spite of their suffering. They rejoice primarily because God is still good and their situation could be even worse. Rejoicing has the ability to make our suffering more bearable.



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THE DON'T'S OF LOVING SUFFERING

1. DON'T BEG FOR HELP WITH YOU'RE SUFFERING

We should avoid begging anyone for support during our moments and seasons of suffering. Be assured that God will provide the support we need. All we have to do is continue to pray and depend on his providence. God is willing and able to do it.

2. DON'T BLAME OTHERS FOR YOUR SUFFERING

The easiest thing to do when suffering is to blame it on others. Maybe someone did do things to contribute to our suffering. That still doesn't mean they're ultimately the blame. There's a variety of factors and forces that come together to create our suffering.

3. DON'T BITE INTO OTHERS BECAUSE OF YOUR SUFFERING

The most common response to suffering is to be short or mean with others because of the pain. Dealing with pain for extended periods of time can wear on a person. However, we must resist the temptation to be mean and lovingly glorify God in our kindness