

Sunday 8/15/04

“Lord, Change My Attitude (Before It’s Too Late)” – Week 8

Saved as mdutton\Adult Bible Fellowship\Lord, Change My Attitude\08 Lesson Chp 6 Love

Introduction:

1. I want to thank everyone who was able to be part of the ABF Breakfast last week – what a great time of fellowship and getting to know others in our church family!
2. We’re going to get right into the lesson today for several reasons:
 - 1 – this is the last lesson on Lord, Change My Attitude (Before It’s Too Late).
 - 2 – next week we begin our series in the book of Philippians – *“The Joy of Serving Our God”*
 - mention reading through the book – handout an outline (layout) of the series [end of lesson]
 - so this is somewhat of a transition week
3. Our study today centers on replacing a critical attitude with an attitude of love!
 - one of the things its so easy to get caught up in the an attitude of criticism – being critical of others
 - ** THAT CAN HAPPEN IN THE WAY PEOPLE VIEW THEIR CHURCH [explain – the WalMart vs. Meier mentality – i.e. whoever has the best deal, that’s where I’m going, no loyalty!]
 - that’s why Matthew 7:1-5 is so neglected – our pride keeps us from that passage [read/explain]
4. **Q: What are some general truths about love that you already know?**
 - 1) **Not primarily a feeling -- but a choice!**
 - **John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**
 - 2) **Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22**
 - * The kind of love that Paul outlines to us is not produced by human effort -- but by the inner working of the Holy Spirit as we obey the word of God
 - 3) **It’s the badge of discipleship -- proof of our faith**
 - **John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**
 - 4) **Great evangelistic tool – John 3:16**
 - * You can’t win someone to Christ w/o loving them
 - * You must love them enough to tell them the TRUTH:
 - they are a sinner
 - they can’t work their way to heaven
 - Jesus had to die for their sin & be raised from the dead
 - if they receive Him (John 1:11) = eternal live
 - if they reject = eternal damnation (John 3:16, 17)

I. God Expects Us to Demonstrate Love to Others

Q: *Why?* -- because He is a God of love and He demonstrated love to us first (modeled it!)

- This particular lesson is a good one to end on because learning to love people is the 2nd greatest commandment

- **Matthew 22:37** And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

Q: Is this commandment *all-inclusive*? – i.e. does it require that we love EVERYBODY?

Yes – explain loving even your enemies [Matthew 5:44]

[Read 1 Cor. 13]

- There are 3 different Greek words for love:

1) *eros* (sensual love) /

2) *phileo* (brotherly love) . . .

3) The most common *agapa* = **selfless love, giving love**, an act of the will or a choice I make

"Love" = giving to others needs without having as my motive personal reward (unconditional)

> The love of 1 Cor. 13 is *agapa* – showing love for the glory of God! (right opinion of God)

Note: Look at what Paul compares genuine love to in the text

Input: Complete this phrase: Love is more important than _____.

> *Speaking with the tongues of men and angels* (i.e. this is NOT a specific language of the angels, but the fact that they were divine messengers for God, even if he spoke that way, yet don't have love, it's worthless!)

[Read p. 22 last paragraph before "Another Barrier"]

> *more important than v. 2*

> *more important than v. 3* – giving all my possessions to feed the poor, or my body to be burned

Point: You can talk, talk, talk, and be BUSY – but fail to love God and love people!

[discuss the issue of loving people and reaching out to them]

Q: How, where, and when can this be done?

* Mention HOME FELLOWSHIP August 29th

* Mention CHURCH FAMILY NIGHTS

* Mention greeting people before / after church – in the lobby

* Mention INTRO TO FAITH

Input: What has to happen first before we'll show love this way?

> we'll never do that if we don't grow in our love for Him

**Share ABF stats [see handout at the end of lesson] – Q: What does that tell you about our ABFs being an assimilation and discipleship tool?

II. What Does Love Look Like?

- we don't have time to do a detailed study of each one of these, but let's at least touch base and consider each one that Paul mentions:

love is patient - * "**macrothumeo**" = long fused > long tempered/not quick to get angry

- negatively -- not getting sinfully angry
- positively -- enduring the failures and/or offenses of others

> God's answer for impatience is love – God's love is the exact opposite of impatience

1) It focuses on the welfare of others!

2) It is more willing to be taken advantage of than to take advantage! – Romans 12:17-21

love is kind

◆ **useful, gracious** >> opposite of severity, harshness, cruelty

⇒ Kindness is active servanthood.

- it not only wants to do something, but kindness DOES something

love is not jealous = to set one's heart on something (it could overlap with coveting (Jas 4.2)

> jealousy is more wanting what somebody else has

> coveting is more wanting what somebody else has and wishing they didn't have it!

love does not brag = root word -- vainglorious

- be conceited
- to parade one's self before others

Point: Biblical love refuses to "show off" or speak of personal achievements, qualities

love is not arrogant = root word – bellows

> puff one's self out (like bellows)

Point: Biblical love is characterized by HUMILITY

- not referring to "false humility" (just looking down on yourself)
- but REGOGNIZING THAT GOD AND OTHERS ARE ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN MY LIFE

love does not act unbecomingly = lit. deformed, ugly

- the word means to behave improperly or indecently

- Negative: act improperly, to be rude, behave disgracefully, dishonorably (1Co 7:36;
- Positive: proper, courteous; does the right things at the right time

Point: Love does not act uncharacteristic of a gentleman or a lady!

* Summarize the rest – note "believing all things" is giving the benefit of the doubt, giving the best interpretation until all the facts are in (apply this to a judgmental attitude toward others)

Input: Which one do you struggle with most?

Close – emphasize the Philippians series – FBI Classes – using the Advertisements (5 each!!)

ABF Study Guide
“Lord, Change My Attitude (Before It’s Too Late)” – Week 8
An Attitude of Love – 1 Cor. 13

Introduction:

Q: *What are some general truths about love that you already know?*

- 1) Not primarily a _____ -- but a _____!
- 2) _____ of the Spirit
- 3) It’s the _____ of _____ -- proof of our faith
- 4) Great _____ tool

I. God Expects Us to _____ Love to Others

Q: Is this commandment *all-inclusive*?

* There are 3 different Greek words for love:

- 1) *eros* (sensual love)
- 2) *phileo* (brotherly love)
- 3) *agapa* = selfless love, giving love

Input: Complete this phrase – *Love is more important than* _____.

Q: *How, where, and when can this be done?*

Input: What has to happen first before we'll show love this way?

II. What Does Love Look Like?

love is patient = _____, long tempered/not quick to get angry

love is kind

◆ _____-, _____>> opposite of severity, harshness, cruelty

love is not jealous = to _____ on something

love does not brag = _____

love is not arrogant = _____-

love does not act unbecomingly = _____

Other descriptions:

Input: Which one do you struggle with most?

ABF Study Guide

“Lord, Change My Attitude (Before It’s Too Late)” – Week 8

An Attitude of Love – 1 Cor. 13

Introduction:

Q: What are some general truths about love that you already know?

1) Not primarily a feeling -- but a choice!

- **John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

2) Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22

3) It’s the badge of discipleship -- proof of our faith

- **John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

4) Great evangelistic tool – John 3:16

I. God Expects Us to Demonstrate Love to Others

• Matthew 22:37-39

Q: Is this commandment *all-inclusive*?

* There are 3 different Greek words for love:

1) *eros* (sensual love) /

2) *phileo* (brotherly love) . . .

3) *agapa* = selfless love, giving love

Input: Complete this phrase: Love is more important than _____.

Q: How, where, and when can this be done?

Input: What has to happen first before we'll show love this way?

II. What Does Love Look Like?

love is patient = long fused > long
tempered/not quick to get angry

love is kind

◆ useful, gracious >> opposite of severity,
harshness, cruelty

love is not jealous = to set one's heart on something

love does not brag = vainglorious

love is not arrogant = bellows

love does not act unbecomingly = lit. deformed, ugly

Other descriptions:

Input: Which one do you struggle with most?

	2002	2003	2004 ytd	% Change
January	445	423	495.3	11.30%
February	615	573.3	663.2	7.84%
March	422.6	431.4	469.8	11.17%
April	440	448	481	9.32%
May	407.8	408.3	439.6	7.80%
June	394.4	399.4	433.5	9.91%
July	414.8	377.5	412.3	9.70%
August	428.5	444		3.62%
September	448	477		6.47%
October	408.8	475.3		16.27%
November	423	445.4		5.30%
December	394	287		-27.16%
Total	436.83	432.47	484.96	11.02%
Intro to Faith Attendees	142	174	64	
Intro to Faith attendees who became members	75	105	18	
	52.82%	60.34%	28.13%	
Intro to Faith attendees who regularly attend ABF	67	113	50	
% of Intro attendees who attend ABF	47.18%	64.94%	78.13%	
Intro attendees who attend ABF (Members)	50	82	23	
Intro attendees who attend ABF (Non-Members)	17	31	27	