

“A More Excellent Way”

Lesson 4: Love Depleting Challenges To Families “Selfishness and Anger” (1 Corinthians 13:5)

Intro:

1. Selfish conduct is often at the core of many family difficulties. Adultery, divorce, financial woes, etc... are often a direct result of selfish behavior.
2. Anger presents itself in a variety of ways. All of which effectively remove love from a home.
3. Grudges and resentment are often a result.
4. These attitudes are in direct contrast to what Jesus demands of his disciples. (Luke 9:23)

I. Challenge of selfishness within our families.

1. Children come first. (Philippians 2:3-4)
 - a. Parents want to make sacrifices that benefit their children but some restraint must be used as to not promote selfishness in our children.
 - b. It benefits children to accept some responsibility for the things they have. (Lamentations 3:27)
 - c. Selfishness can be avoided when God is first. (Matthew 10:37)
 - d. Teach our children to be giving. (Matthew 19:20-22)
 - e. Genuine love for our children will compel us to avoid the things that cause selfishness.
2. Selfishness can destroy harmony within a local body of Christians. (3 John 1:5-10)

II. Anger harms the love within our families.

1. Slow to anger. (James 1:19-20)
2. Watch our words. (Proverb 15:1)
 - a. Words are more harmful than we realize.

b. Anger is often expressed in words that linger for a long time. (Proverb 18:19)

3. Love overcomes anger.

a. When angry, serve. (John 13:14-17)

b. When angry, provoke others to good works. (Hebrews 10:24)

c. When angry, be accountable. (Romans 12:18)

III. Thoughts for the unmarried who are looking for a godly mate.

1. Be cautious concerning a potential spouse who expresses selfishness or anger before marriage.

2. A potential spouse should demonstrate themselves godly before I enter into a marriage.
(Matthew 21:19)

3. Challenges come when we ignore problems until after we enter the marriage. (1 Corinth. 7:10-15)

4. No amount of cards, flowers, gifts, or expressions of "I love you" grants permission for anyone to be abusive. (Emotionally, physically, or spiritually.)

Conclusion:

1. Love does not "behave itself unseemly." (1 Corinthians 13:5)

2. Love avoids anger and selfishness.

3. Love wants to promote caring and giving in every environment.