

January 25, 2020

Ten Pictures of Love - #5

1 Cor. 13:4-6 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

The Greek word for proud is phusioutai. Phusa means to bellow or puff out. It literally depicts someone who is full of themselves. Love cannot be based on any merit of our own. Read what Paul wrote in Col. 2:18 - Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.

Here in is the crux of the issue; people who practice religious things tend to take pride in what they have done. Even when they have done a good thing, if it is not motivated by the love of God, then it is useless. I must confess that multiple times I have told people I hate religion. Why? Religion is man's attempt to get to God's level. We could never do so. Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship! Paul put it this way in Col. 3:4-14 If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

The only way we can love like God does is realize we have nothing of any value without Him and our only hope is Him alone. When we understand this, we can begin to love from a heart towards Him rather than a head that is towards ourselves. Love is full of humility and doesn't have to be constantly patted on the back.

Lord, help me to love with humility; seeing others as more important than myself. I need Your help to do that! Please put to death today this desire within me to need to feel like I'm important because I don't need that...I just need You. If I have You, I have everything! In Jesus Name, Amen