

**GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS!** – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

### **3 3 26 V1n43b FLOODED WITH THE LOVE OF GOD!**

CHRISTIAN! You are FLOODED with the Love of God! **“God’s love FLOODS OUR HEARTS by the Holy Spirit who has been given unto us!”** (Romans 5:5, Moffatt) This love is described in 1 Cor. 13:4-8a. This love is THE EVIDENCE which reveals to a watching world that we are GENUINE Christians! (Jn. 13:35)

### **BEWARE OF DEADLY HINDRANCES!!!**

It is COMMON for humans .. (including genuine CHRISTIANS!) .. to have relationship STRUGGLES with loved ones! **HERE ARE SOME often overlooked REASONS WHY:**

**1. So often, we are quick to speak and slow to listen— INSTEAD OF HEEDING: James 1:19:** <sup>19</sup>“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:”

**2. We fail to consider the natural traits which we all have:**

**Proverbs 16:2—** “All the ways of a man are clean (pure) in his own eyes.”

**Proverbs 20:6—** “Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness.”

**Proverbs 21:2—** “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes.”

**Proverbs 18:13, 17—** “He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him”. .... “The first to plead his case *seems* right, *Until* another comes and examines him.”

**3. We, unwittingly, are quick to do satan’s work: Revelation 12:10—**

“... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.” **Satan not only accuses believers before God (TO NO AVAIL!); BUT he delights to suggest accusations one against another ... to condemn ... to accuse ... to find fault...**

**4. We are all too quick to CONFESS the real or imagined faults, failures, and/or sins of others; ... WHILE FAILING TO CONFESS OUR OWN! First John 1:9—<sup>9</sup> “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” James 6:16—<sup>16</sup> “Confess **your faults (sins)** one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed...”**

**5. We FAIL to bring our THOUGHTS into captivity to obedience to Jesus Christ! 2 Corinthians 10:5— THUS, we fail to CONFESS our own sins / failures; we listen to the accusations of satan against each other; we confess the real or imagined sins or failures of the other person; we defend and/or excuse ourselves; etc.**

**IT'S A WARZONE! WE CAN 'BEAT UP' on each other; 'BEAT UP' on ourselves— or, WE RECEIVE and ACT UPON the Word of God and EXPERIENCE HEALING! FOR THE CHRISTIAN, HERE IS THE FOUNDATION OF DEEP HEALING:** CHRISTIAN! You are FLOODED with the Love of God: "... **God's love FLOODS OUR HEARTS by the Holy Spirit who has been given unto us!**" (*Romans 5:5, Moffatt*)

This love is described in 1 Cor. 13:4-8a. This love is THE EVIDENCE which reveals to a watching world that we are GENUINE Christians! (Jn 13:35) **IF IN REALITY, a professing Christian does not love, that one does NOT KNOW GOD! (1 Jn 4:7-8) THUS, IT IS NO WONDER that 1 Corinthians 13 begins so stunningly:**

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, **I am nothing.** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, **it profiteth me nothing.** (1 Cor. 13:1-3) **THUS, the Holy Spirit has the**

## **Apostle Paul to boldly expose the many LOVE FAILURES of the Corinthian Church ... and now, ours:**

**1. STRIFE/PRIDE:** In the first four chapters, we learn that the church was filled with **strife which was rooted in pride**— for the Bible teaches that it is ONLY by pride that contention comes! (Pro. 13:10) **Differences**— families and churches have differences from time to time! That's no problem. That's life! But how we handle our differences can be a problem. **REALITY: Differences constitute a grand opportunity to show a strife-filled world the reality of God's love!** YES, there is room for diversity— but no room for divisiveness; and NO ROOM FOR LOVELESSNESS!

**2. GROSS SIN RAGING:** In Chapter 5, they were tolerating gross sin among those who professed to be Christians. They had refused to carry out church discipline. Unrepented, Unjudged sin in the church family— brought strong JUDGMENT: 1 Cor. 5:1-13.

**3. SELFISH and UNFORGIVING:** In Chapter 6, they were taking one another to court, presided over by lost men. There WAS no willingness to suffer OR to forgive! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LOVE WITHOUT suffering and forgiving!

**4. DISHONOR OF MARRIAGE VOWS:** In Chapter 7, they were having marriage problems; and looking for excuses to end their marriages. Today, Bible Study notes, Christian Books, and pastors team up to give multitudes excuses to end marriages; rather than leading them to the way of the Cross and reconciliation. This is LOVELESSNESS!

**5. CARNAL SELFISHNESS:** In Chapter 8, they were arguing over whether or not to eat meat that had been sacrificed to heathen gods. In Chapter 9, they were arguing over whether or not Paul was a true apostle. In Chapter 10, Paul had to warn this church about lust, idolatry, fornication, tempting God, murmuring, and fellowship with devils. In Chapter 11, Paul warned them of misconduct at their fellowship and Lord's Suppers. In Chapters 12 & 14, their worship services had become chaos, because many were misusing the gifts of the Spirit— using them for self-glorification, self-gratification, personal excitement, and pride. These are just a few of the LOVE FAILURE problems of the church at Corinth!

**SERIOUS QUESTION:** Had I been a member of that church, would I have been a part of the problem or a part of the solution?

**The house of Ch-lo-e** was a part of the solution, (1 Cor. 1:11). When gossip, slander, discord, discontent, and other sins in the Body of Christ at Corinth reached their ears— they reported the information to the Apostle Paul, who was a person responsible before God to deal with it. **The house of Stephanas** was a part of the solution, (1 Cor. 16:15-16). Stephanas **was ADDICTED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS!** **What saints?** The carnal Christian saints at Corinth! (1 Cor. 1:2) Yes, these 'carnal Christians' were **RADICALLY TRANSFORMED** from what they once were, (See 1 Cor. 6:9-11)!

However, as we have seen they had many deep-seated problems. **WHAT A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY** for some Holy Spirit filled members of the congregation to not be sidetracked; but **FOCUSED** upon **MINISTRY!**

**The Apostle Paul** was a part of the solution. With the help of others, Paul got the facts about the congregation; and then he directly addressed every specific problem in that church with 'thus says the LORD' instruction!

**BY THE WAY, when Paul dealt with matters in the churches, he would name the guilty! AND ALSO,** some got their names in the Word of God because of positive ministry, like Chloe and Stephanas. However, others were named because of sin for which they had not repented: Euodias and Syntyche, Phil. 4:2; Demas, 2 Tim. 4:10; Alexander the coppersmith, 2 Tim. 4:14.

**HOLY SPIRIT SOLUTIONS: In tackling the wide-spread LOVELESSNESS at Corinth and with US:**

**1. First, there was a REMINDER that they were SAINTS (1 Cor. 1:2) ... that is, they were set apart for Godly use and manifestations! [A CONTINUAL FOCUS upon who we are in Christ empowers/motivates us to godly choices/behavior!]**

**2. There was specific doctrine/exhortation that dealt with the specific problems and needs in the church to EXPOSE LOVELESSNESS and to call them to the loving way of Christ!**

**As you and I carefully read the following—** LET EACH of us receive the Word of the LORD! **(Let us INSERT our own names in the place of the word ‘LOVE!’)**

**LOVE IS PATIENT:** I am slow to get angry with those I love; I never holler at or lose my temper with the children or my spouse or ‘lose my temper’ with those with whom I work!

**LOVE IS KIND:** I am thoughtful and considerate of those closest to me; generous in my praise to others; extravagant with giving my time to others; on the lookout for ways to ‘build up’ the others in my family, friends, church, etc.

**LOVE ENVIES NO ONE:** I am not jealous when others get promoted ahead of me; nor am I threatened by their gifts or accomplishments. I do not sit back and pout or pick flaws when I am set aside or go unnoticed or unappreciated.

**LOVE IS NEVER BOASTFUL:** I do not hog the conversation, bragging about my gifts and accomplishments; nor do I exaggerate the facts so as to leave a better impression than is absolutely true. **When others fall,** I remind myself that had I been in their shoes, I would have fallen worse than they did!

**LOVE IS NOT CONCEITED:** I do not harbor an inflated view of my own importance, or have to be coaxed, honored or pampered so as to be willing to do my part; I do not twist the conversation around to my own interests so as to draw attention to myself. I do not point out the sins of others, instead of confessing and dealing with my own!

**LOVE IS NOT RUDE:** I am not cruel, nasty, crude, cutting, sarcastic or cocky; but instead I seek to be polite, well-mannered, courteous and gracious with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers... especially when or if any of these have failed me. **LOVE IS NOT SELFISH:** I am not self-centered or self-seeking making others fit into my mold or laying expectations on others for my own interests; I am not possessive of those I love, insisting on my own way or my own rights. **LOVE DOES NOT TAKE OFFENSE:** I am not touchy, cranky, defensive, brittle or super-sensitive; I am not easily hurt at any slightest little thing, or offended by an oversight by my spouse, other family members, friends or associates. In all of these points of love, I am guided by the way in which Jesus has compassionately dealt with my own failures! **LOVE KEEPS NO SCORE OF WRONGS:** I am quick to forgive those who have wronged or harmed me; I do not remind my offender in any way of the forgiven past. I do not hold the forgiven past against my offender. I have chosen to forgive my offenders in the same manner as Jesus has forgiven me. (Eph. 4:32) I don't have to retaliate or 'defend myself' when criticized by my spouse, boss, friend or work associate. **LOVE DOES NOT GLOAT OVER THE WRONGS OF OTHERS:** I do not secretly rejoice when others make a mistake or when they are accused or proven wrong; I don't take pleasure in reminding others of their faults, or by saying, 'I told you so!'... or by using past faults as a weapon against them... or by telling others about those who have sinned against me.

**LOVE DELIGHTS IN THE TRUTH:** I am glad when right and justice prevail no matter who gets the credit; I am strong in my own convictions while still leaving room for my own human error and room for honest differences when good men disagree over what is, in fact, the truth on an issue.

**I give supreme value to the Word of God as the ultimate plum-line of truth** which the Holy Spirit breathed out, has preserved and continues to reveal to humble hearts.

**Therefore,** I delight in the truth by submitting to GOD'S TRUTH, even over the clamor of the crowds; AND OVER my screaming selfish heart!

**LOVE CONTINUES TO HOPE AND NEVER QUILTS:** Being amazed that Jesus loves me and has been patient with me, I always believe that the fallen can be restored! ***Thus, I choose to be a channel for the sacrificial, forgiving, unconditional and unending love of Jesus—especially for the unlovable, the undeserving, and the unresponsive.*** I chose to honor my vows to my spouse, to keep on loving no matter what 'until death do us part!

**CHRISTIAN: WHEN GOD SAVED YOU**, (Romans 5:5), HE flooded your heart with His love by the Holy Spirit— THIS [THE ABOVE] is a sample of what the LOVE OF GOD looks like in and through the redeemed child of God!

## **WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?**

**1. "I feel like Shouting!** NO, I have not arrived, but I am experiencing GRACE for the high calling of love! I have a

passion to be a channel for God's love because this DIVINE LOVE flooded my heart by the Holy Spirit when I was born again! (Romans 5:5) Moreover, I am being taught of God to love more and more! (1 Thess. 4:9-10); and I choose to heed the call to Keep myself in the love of God! (Jude 21)''

**2. OTHERS:** "GOD IS CALLING ME to repent of lovelessness, to REPENT OF GRIEVING the Holy Spirit, and to REPENT of QUENCHING the Holy Spirit; and He IS CALLING ME to go forth BEING FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT."

**3. STILL OTHERS, maybe this is your need:** Make sure you have received the love of God. This kind of love is impossible without God's love first being shed abroad in your heart. You cannot express love until you have first received it. COME TO JESUS NOW!

**4. GOD FORBID— BUT if** there are those who have no intention or desire of GOING FORTH with a PASSION to be a channel for God's love; **and you** have NO WILLINGNESS to be taught of God to love more and more! (1 Thess. 4:9-10); **and NO** WILLINGNESS to heed the call to KEEP YOURSELF in the love of God! (Jude 21)— **THEN: You are but ONE HEARTBEAT** away from an eternity, experiencing the Holy Wrath of God! FLEE TO CHRIST NOW!

**Now the Word of God has been given to each of us! THERE WILL EITHER be fresh and/or DEEPER miracles of love ... or a 'digging in' and justifying the flesh. WHICH will it be?**

MAY GRACE ABOUND! James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

**SUNDAY SERVICES: MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026**

[1] Sunday School at 9:30am: Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. [2] WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!

**SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH : \*\*\*\* SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 7— SPRING CLOCKS**

**FORWARD!! \*\*\*\***

**MARCH 15, LORD'S SUPPER // HOME GROUPS**

**MARCH 22, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Evening Worship**

**EVERY SATURDAY\*\*\* 8:00 AM,** — Men's Bible Study! (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available! ) **MARCH 7 / Romans 7**

**NEXT Ladies Bible Study, 3/17/26 @ 11:00 AM – Read Acts 6**

**\*\*\*TUESDAYS: LADIES PRAYER MEETING @ 10:00am**

**Young Adults ... Tuesdays at 7:15pm at Jaden and Rhi's home!**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm, MEN'S Prayer Service // YOUNG FAMILIES SERVICE**

**LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD by MAIL or by ONLINE:**

BY MAIL (checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 /

TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>