

The Sunday Reader

Vol. 07 No. 26

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine...

JULY 01, 2007

LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT PARADE ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP

I Corinthians. 13:4

Envy is from a Greek word meaning zealous or moved with jealousy. This is a self-seeking attitude of heart, the opposite of love which is self-less. When I cannot rejoice in a brother's fortune or blessings, and rather resent or covet that for myself, I have not love for my brother. The emphatic statement should be taken as a sober warning. We can easily monitor our feelings for our brothers and sisters in this area. If there is envy in my heart toward a brother or sister, I am already in trouble with my Lord.

Love does not parade itself. Other translations use the phrase vaunteth not itself. This word marks for us another indication of self-love rather than self-less love. One who loves another will spend time and effort elevating, promoting, supporting and complimenting the one loved rather than doing those things for himself. We cannot be self-promoters. We must promote our brothers and sisters. We will, therefore, speak well of them, both to them and to others. We must have confidence that our brothers who love us will give me whatever elevating and promoting I deserve. This is not my concern if I love.

Love is not puffed up. Inflated, proud and puffed up are at the heart of this Greek word. Arrogance is the issue. Even if I do not parade myself I can have a quiet arrogant attitude. Arrogance may come from an over-evaluation of my own worth or value. However, it can also be the result of de-valuing those around me. Our compliments and support of brethren should come from a genuine appreciation of their worth to me. There is no room in God's kingdom for an "I don't need you" attitude. For all my talents and sacrifices I am not nearly as wonderful as I tend to think. And for all your faults and weaknesses you are not as worthless as I tend to think. I need to see and appreciate my weaknesses and your strengths rather than the other way around.

(by DTB, The Sunday Reader February 10, 2002)

THE DEVIL IS PERFECTLY WILLING FOR A PERSON TO PROFESS CHRISTIANITY SO LONG AS HE DOES NOT PRACTICE IT.

--unknown--

Jesus Accepted Rejection

Isaiah 53:3 " *He is despised and rejected of men...*" A very often overlooked and interesting attribute of Jesus was His willingness to accept rejection. What does this mean? Jesus did not, as many today would have us to believe, bend over backwards, do everything imaginable, or go out of His way to keep people from rejecting Him, or to keep from "offending" people. Rather, Scripture teaches that in many ways Jesus accommodated rejection. It was not that Jesus wanted to be rejected. Our Lord wants everyone to be saved (2nd Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4).

In the proclamation of truth, Jesus was not coercive, pushy, nor did He try to "force feed" truth. He presented truth very "matter-of-factly." Jesus did not use "high-pressure" sales tactics to "sell" the truth. It was, however, up to the recipient to respond to the truth in a positive way and accept the Lord's will—however, most rejected our Lord. When this happened, our Lord didn't "run" after them pleading and begging them to reconsider. He did not say "what can I do to make My message more pleasing to you?" No, He accepted rejection.

In Matt. 13:10, there is an interesting question posed by Jesus' disciples. "Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" This was a great question, and we might expect the answer to be, "to make truth more vivid and easier to understand." I guess there would be some truth to this, but this was not the answer Jesus gave. Our Lord responded to their question by quoting Isaiah 6:9 (Matt. 13:13-15).

Jesus is saying that He taught in parables because some people are not really receptive to the truth. Isn't this a fascinating teaching method of our Lord? Rather than trying to "water down" truth, or teaching truth in the very simplest form, He made some teaching just difficult enough that those who did not want to understand would not. On the other hand, those who were sincerely desirous of the truth would spend "extra" effort and energy to investigate and they would be able to understand. Jesus wasn't trying to "confuse" people. He was accommodating their unbelief and rejection.

(From an article by Tom Moore, Seek Ye First Pub.)

Upcoming Assignments:

Sunday AM July 1, 2007

Announcements	W. Holland
	G. Collier
Prayers	M. Shepherd
	J. Presley
Song Leader	G. Collier
Communion	S. McCalpine
	B. Tuten
Assist Communion	T. Irvin
	J. Presley
Greeter.....	C. Davis

Sunday PM July 1, 2007

Song Leader	B. Tuten
Opening Prayer	M. Bidney
Scripture Reading.....	J. Lamont
Closing Prayer	B. Webber

Wednesday PM July 4, 2007

Song Leader	F. Bacon
Prayers	Assigned
Invitation	W. Holland

Prepare Lord's Supper July 8, 2007

Marian Tuten

Making Communion Bread for July

Viola Darrington

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people so that you will work for justice, equality and peace.

--unknown--

The Information Box

- Group 1 meets tonight after services
- Remember in Prayer:
James Wyatt (swelling in his feet)
Vickie Hay
Joe Lamont
Al Argo
Donna & Ed Pickett
Ruth & Jerry Poss
- Out of town this weekend: Mike & Courtney Bidney; The Darrington family; Bob & Marian Tuten; Al Argo; Ken & Debbie Mowbray & Cody; The Nesmith family.
- Remember our gospel meeting with Dempsey Collins from St. Louis, MO, August 9-12, 2007.
- Joseph Casimier will be preaching for us and visiting with us on July 8th. Everyone try to be here. The men will meet with him at 4 PM at the building to get better acquainted and ask any questions they might have.
- Remember we will be reading I, II & III John and Jude tomorrow night, 7-2-07, at the building at 7:30.
- We are so thrilled that Alexis Duffey was baptized into Christ last night. Everyone congratulate her!!!
- Jessica Hawkes was baptized into Christ on June 20, 2007. She is the daughter of a former deacon here, Brien Hawkes, whose family now lives in Texas.

Childrens Bloopers:

- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.

Rockdale Church of Christ

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**Determined to serve God
according to His will.**

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning:

Bible Study - 9:30
Worship - - - 10:30

Sunday Evening:

Worship - - - 5:30

Wednesday Evening:

Bible Study - 7:30

Elders:

Forrest Bacon - 770-918-1932
Wendell Holland - 770-761-6987
Bob Tuten - 678-475-7212

Deacons:

Gary Collier - 770-483-6017
Marshall Irvin - 770-483-5745