

Tuesday

August 11

What Love Does Not Do

Read again 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Why does Paul mention negative rather than only positive characteristics of love?

RISE (Yesterday, we) focused on seven things love does; today's LESSON, (we will) lookS into eight things it does not do. Love . . .

1. Does not envy (zeloō). (DZAY-LO-O) "TO HAVE WARMTH OF FEELING FOR OR AGAINST"
Zeloō can be used positively as in "desire [zeloō] the higher gifts" (1 Cor. 12:31, ESV), "desire [zeloō] the spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 14:1, ESV), and "desire [zeloō] to prophesy" (1 Cor. 14:39, ESV).

Here, though, [IN 1COR 13:4] as in Acts 7:9, it is negative. It is OK to desire spiritual gifts, but not to envy gifted persons. This causes division (1 Cor. 3:3).

2. Does not boast (*perpereuomai*). The GREEK verb HERE *perpereuomai* HAS A DOUBLE USAGE IN THIS VERSE. ("VAUTETH/BOAST" AND "ITSELF") WE COULD READ THAT LOVE DOES NOT BOAST-BOAST OR DOUBLE BOAST. IT conveys the idea of SELD PRAISE AND [arrogance and] A desire for praise from others. IT REMINDED ME OF ANOTHER BIBLE VERSE THAT SAYS-"LET ANOTHER MAN PRAISE THEE, AND NOT THINE OWN MOUTH; A STRANGER, AND NOT THINE OWN LIPS".-PROV 27:2. LET ANOTHER PERSON BOAST ABOUT YOU BUT DON'T BOAST ABOUT YOURSELF OR DOUBLE BOAST.

[Love, however, is not self-focused like that. This is even clearer in what follows.]

3. Does not puff up (*physioō*). The verb *physioō* occurs in 1 Corinthians 8:1 in Paul's

remarkable statement,

“ ‘Knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up”

(*ESV*). It refers to a person inflated with self-importance. IT ALSO OCCURS IN 1COR 5:2 AS RISE SHARED IN AN EARLIER PROGRAM ABOUT THE LACK OF. LOVINGLY DEALING WITH SIN IN THE CHURCH. WHEN WE FAIL TO DEAL WITH SIN IN THE CHURCH WE ARE PUFFED UP.

4. Does not behave rudely (*aschēmoneo*). The verb *aschēmoneo* “TO BE (ACT) UNBECOMING” LIKE THE PREVIOUS WORD, “BOAST” ALSO HAS A DOUBLE USAGE IN THIS VERSE. THE PHRASE COULD BE READ “DOES NOT RUDELY ACT RUDELY.” IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS AN INTENTIONALITY IN THE RUDE ACTING. THERE MAY BE TIMES IN LIFE WHERE WE ACT UN-SEEMINGLY OR RUDE ACCIDENTALLY. WE MAY SAY OR DO SOMETHING THAT OFFENDS SOMEONE ELSE WITHOUT MEANING “TWO”. PERHAPS WE DON’T UNDERSTAND THE CUSTOMS OR TRADITIONS OF ANOTHER CULTURE AND DO SOMETHING THAT IS RUDE IN THEIR EYES. THIS TEXT

IS SPEAKING OF INTENTIONALLY BEING RUDE. AS WE WILL SEE AND HAVE SEEN, PAUL IS ENLIGHTENING THE CHURCH IN CORINTH SPECIFICALLY HERE IN THE CONTEXT OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS. IF AFTER UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLES OF LOVE, THEY CONTINUED TO ACT RUDE THEN THEY ARE DOING WHAT THIS VERSE SAYS THEY ARE RUDELY ACTING RUDE.

may have an ample range of meanings.

By and large, though, it means acting contrary to social and moral standards in a dishonorable, shameful, indecent, or improper manner. Likely, Paul is referring to the arrogant and rude behavior of the "strong" party towards the "weak" members in Corinth (*1 Cor. 4:10, 1 Corinthians 8*).

5. Does not seek (zēteo) its own ~~rights~~.

LOVE DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN OR SELF. TO SEEK YOUR GOOD IN THE SENSE OF MAKING SELF THE CENTER OR WORSHIPPING YOURSELF. THIS PHRASE IS DIRECTED AT

THE VIRUS OF SELF ABSORPTION INFECTING THE
FALLEN NATURE OF THE HUMAN RACE.

~~This is similar to what Paul says in 1
Corinthians 10:24: "No one is to seek his own
right, but rather that of others" (author's
translation). Love gives up its own rights for
the sake of others (see Lesson 5). In a setting
in which everyone seeks each other's rights, all
benefit.~~

6. Does not get easily irritated

(*paroxynō*). The verb *paroxynō* suggests an inward
state of arousal pointing to someone easily
provoked to anger. LIKE THE PREVIOUS WORDS,
"BOAST" AND "UNBECOMING" THIS WORD "PROVOKED"
ALSO HAS A DOUBLE USAGE IN THIS VERSE. "IS" AND
"PROVOKED" SHARE THIS SAME GREEK WORD. I
REMEMBER THE PHRASE, "TOUCHY, TOUCHY" AS IF
SOMEONE WERE HYPER SENSITIVE. LOVE IS NOT HYPER
SENSITIVE. I THINK THAT'S A BIG ONE IN SOCIETY

TODAY. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY IN POLITICS, IT'S HYPERSENSITIVE.

This means that love is not short-tempered or touchy.

7. Does not keep records (*logizomai*) of wrongs. The verb *logizomai* has an accounting sense here, meaning that love does not take one's wrongs into account. In other words, love also means to forgive.

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8. Does not delight (*chairō*) at wrongdoing. THE WORD FOR WRONGDOING OR INIQUITY HERE IS AD-EE-KEE-AH NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH IKEA. IT MEANS INJUSTICE, MORAL WRONGFULNESS OF CHARACTER, LIFE OR ACT. IT IS DEFINED IN FIRST JOHN 5:17 AS SIN. SECOND THESSALONIANS 2:12 SAYS THOSE WHO ARE DECEIVED AND DAMNED ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS AD-EE-KEE-AH!

THIS MAKES SENSE SINCE LOVE IS MANIFEST IN
KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS OR LAW. THOSE WHO
HAVE PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OR LAWBREAKING
ARE ABSENT OF TRUE LOVE, GOD'S LOVE.

Love not only keeps no record of someone else's
wrongs but takes no pleasure in them. When we
truly love others, we do not rejoice at their
mistakes but, instead, seek to help them.