

# KNIGHTS FOR CHRIST



## The ARMOR of GOD

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:11

Bill Johnson

# 24 VIRTUES OF A TRUE MAN OF GOD



God Loves You This Much

- Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you, and over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. —Colossians 3:12-14

- Love—not gallantry or pride—should drive a man to be a Godly man and should govern his thoughts and actions. Before even looking into this virtue, let’s first start with the very definition of love provided by Scripture”
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, 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. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

- Do you notice the knightly virtues in this passage? Patience, kindness, humility, seeking the best for others, forgiveness, truth-seeking, protection, trust, hope, and perseverance. All of these are knightly virtues.

Why are these traits important? They are important because you waste your life if you do not live by them:

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

# VIRTUOUS LOVE

- WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR FAITH WITH AGAPE LOVE, BECAUSE WITHOUT LOVE OUR SUPPOSED FAITH IS NOTHING. LOVE TRANSFORMS OUR SPEECH FROM A NOISY GONG TO BEAUTIFUL MUSIC, TRANSFORMS OUR KNOWLEDGE FROM PUFFING UP TO BUILDING UP, AND TRANSFORMS OUR GIVING FROM SELF-CENTEREDNESS TO OTHER CENTEREDNESS. IN SHORT, LOVE MAKES US GENUINE IN OUR FAITH EXPRESSION





- WE ARE PRICELESS BEFORE GOD, EVEN WHEN CRUMPLED OR DIRTY
    - A. WE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, AND HE SENT HIS SON TO DIE FOR US!
    - B. WE ARE PRICELESS BECAUSE HE LOVES EVERY ONE OF US!
    - C. WHY DID HE LOVE US SO? BECAUSE WE ARE SO LOVABLE?
      - NO, HE CHOSE TO -
- THAT IS VIRTUOUS LOVE, LOVE AS A CHOICE, LOVE AS A DUTY, AS LOYALTY - THAT IS LOVE NOT BASED ON FRIENDSHIP, BUT ON CHOICE
- THE USUAL WORD FOR THIS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS AGAPE OR GOD'S TYPE OF LOVE.

- TYPES OF LOVE WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND
- STORGE (ΣΤΟΡΓΗ *STORGĒ*) MEANS "AFFECTION" IN ANCIENT AND MODERN GREEK. IT IS NATURAL AFFECTION, LIKE THAT FELT BY PARENTS FOR OFFSPRING. RARELY USED IN ANCIENT WORKS, AND THEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AS A DESCRIPTOR OF RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE FAMILY. IT IS ALSO KNOWN TO EXPRESS MERE ACCEPTANCE OR PUTTING UP WITH SITUATIONS, AS IN "LOVING" THE TYRANT.

- *PHILIA* (ΦΙΛΙΑ *PHILÍA*) IS "MENTAL" LOVE. IT MEANS AFFECTIONATE REGARD OR FRIENDSHIP IN BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN GREEK. THIS TYPE OF LOVE HAS GIVE AND TAKE. IT IS A DISPASSIONATE VIRTUOUS LOVE, A CONCEPT DEVELOPED BY ARISTOTLE. IT INCLUDES LOYALTY TO FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY, AND REQUIRES VIRTUE, EQUALITY AND FAMILIARITY. IN ANCIENT TEXTS, *PHILOS* DENOTED A GENERAL TYPE OF LOVE, USED FOR LOVE BETWEEN FAMILY, BETWEEN FRIENDS, A DESIRE OR ENJOYMENT OF AN ACTIVITY, AS WELL AS BETWEEN LOVERS. ALSO KNOWN AS "BROTHERLY LOVE" PHILADELPHIA

- *ÉROS* (ΕΡΩΣ *ÉRŌS*) IS "PHYSICAL" PASSIONATE LOVE, WITH SENSUAL DESIRE AND LONGING. ROMANTIC, PURE EMOTION WITHOUT THE BALANCE OF LOGIC. "LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT". THE MODERN GREEK WORD "*EROTAS*" MEANS "INTIMATE LOVE;" HOWEVER, *EROS* DOES NOT HAVE TO BE SEXUAL IN NATURE. *EROS* CAN BE INTERPRETED AS A LOVE FOR SOMEONE WHOM YOU LOVE MORE THAN THE *PHILIA*, LOVE OF FRIENDSHIP. IT CAN ALSO APPLY TO DATING RELATIONSHIPS AS WELL AS MARRIAGE. PLATO REFINED HIS OWN DEFINITION: ALTHOUGH *EROS* IS INITIALLY FELT FOR A PERSON, WITH CONTEMPLATION IT BECOMES AN APPRECIATION OF THE BEAUTY WITHIN THAT PERSON, OR EVEN BECOMES APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY ITSELF. THIS IS SEXUAL OR EROTIC LOVE.

- *AGÁPE* (ΑΓΑΠΗ *AGÁPĒ* MEANS LOVE IN A "SPIRITUAL" SENSE. IN THE TERM *S'AGAPO* (Σ'ΑΓΑΠΩ), WHICH MEANS "I LOVE YOU" IN ANCIENT GREEK, IT OFTEN REFERS TO A GENERAL AFFECTION OR DEEPER SENSE OF "TRUE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE" RATHER THAN THE ATTRACTION SUGGESTED BY "*EROS*." THIS LOVE IS SELFLESS; IT GIVES AND EXPECTS NOTHING IN RETURN. *AGAPE* IS USED IN THE BIBLICAL PASSAGE KNOWN AS THE "LOVE CHAPTER," 1 CORINTHIANS 13, AND IS DESCRIBED THERE AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT AS SACRIFICIAL AND SPIRITUAL LOVE.

- WHETHER THE LOVE GIVEN IS RETURNED OR NOT, THE PERSON CONTINUES TO LOVE (EVEN WITHOUT ANY SELF-BENEFIT). *AGAPE* IS ALSO USED IN ANCIENT TEXTS TO DENOTE FEELINGS FOR ONE'S CHILDREN AND THE FEELINGS FOR A SPOUSE, AND IT WAS ALSO USED TO REFER TO A LOVE FEAST. IT CAN ALSO BE DESCRIBED AS THE FEELING OF BEING CONTENT OR HOLDING ONE IN HIGH REGARD. AGAPE IS USED BY CHRISTIANS TO EXPRESS THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD.

# I. Love transforms our speech (1 Cor 13:1)

- A. WITHOUT LOVE, OUR SPEECH IS A NOISY GONG OR CLANGING SYMBOL
  - THE NOISY GONG DRAWS ATTENTION TO HIMSELF
  - THE WORLD IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SHOW THEMSELVES AS BEING “IT”
  - WHEN WE SPEAK WITHOUT LOVE, IT IS DISRUPTIVE, CONFUSING, AND FOCUSES ON EVERYTHING BUT GOD.
  - WHEN LOVE IS PART OF OUR CHARACTER’S FOUNDATION THEN WHEN WE SPEAK IT HAS A SPIRITUAL IMPACT ON THE HEARERS.

# SPEECH WITHOUT LOVE

- THE GOSSIP- NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT ANYONE ELSE
- THE LOUDMOUTH- LOUD CLANGING SYMBOL THAT ONLY IRRITATES AND HAS NO APPEAL
- THE KNOW IT ALL – THE PERSON WHO IS SO FULL OF THEMSELVES THAT IT PUSHES PEOPLE AWAY INSTEAD OF DRAWING THEM TO.
- THE NEGATIVE PERSON- SO MANY PEOPLE SPEAK NOTHING BUT THE NEGATIVE. SPEECH WITHOUT LOVE WILL CAUSE SPEECH THAT PULLS DOWN AND SPEAKS IMPOSSIBILITY INSTEAD OF POSSIBILITY.



# SPEECH WITH LOVE

- WITH LOVE, OUR SPEECH BECOMES BEAUTIFUL MUSIC THAT CAUSES OTHERS TO STOP AND TAKE NOTICE.
- WITH LOVE OUR WORDS ENCOURAGE AND ARE POSITIVE.
- WITH LOVE OUR WORDS ARE FILLED WITH POSSIBILITIES AND POSSIBILITIES
- WITH LOVE WE HELP PEOPLE NARROW THEIR FOCUS ON JESUS AND HIS WAY
- WITH LOVE WE BUILD THE FAITH AND WE ARE GOD-CENTERED IN OUR SPEECH.

## II. LOVE TRANSFORMS OUR KNOWLEDGE (1 COR 13:2)

- KNOWLEDGE IS A POWERFUL THING. AS WE GROW IN KNOWLEDGE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE GROW IN LOVE AS WELL.
- THE SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT OUR KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE IS ABSOLUTELY WORTHLESS.
- WHAT DOES KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE DO??

- KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE PUFFS US UP WITH PRIDE.
- KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE HURTS OTHERS DUE TO HAVING AN ARROGANT NATURE.
- KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE MAKES US VALUE OURSELVES MORE THAN WE VALUE OTHERS.
- KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE CAUSES US TO HOARD WHAT WE KNOW INSTEAD OF SHARING WHAT WE KNOW TO HELP OTHERS. WE HOLD OUR KNOWLEDGE OVER THEIR HEADS.
- KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LOVE CREATES A DANGEROUS ATMOSPHERE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

- KNOWLEDGE WITH LOVE CAUSES US TO OPEN OUR HEARTS AND SHARE WHAT GOD HAS SHOWED US TO SPARE OTHERS THE SAME HURT.
- KNOWLEDGE WITH LOVE GIVES US THE DEEPEST FORM OF KNOWLEDGE....WISDOM.
- KNOWLEDGE WITH LOVE MAKES US THE SERVANT OF OTHERS INSTEAD OF INSISTING ON US BEING SERVED.
- KNOWLEDGE WITH LOVE CREATES AN ATMOSPHERE OF RESPECT AND GROWTH IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.
- KNOWLEDGE WITH LOVE IS LIFE CHANGING

# III. LOVE TRANSFORMS OUR GIVING

## (1 COR 13:3)

- WITHOUT LOVE, OUR GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT
- WITHOUT LOVE - QUESTION IS ...WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
- WITHOUT LOVE – THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS.
- WITHOUT LOVE OUR GIVING IS ALWAYS DONE IN FEAR BECAUSE OF INSECURITY.
- WITHOUT LOVE GIVING IS A “RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE”

- LOVE GIVES US A STRONG MOTIVATION TO SOW INTO THE WORK OF GOD.
- LOVE GIVES FAITH AS A BASE. BECAUSE GOD LOVED US, HE GAVE US LOVE. WHEN WE HAVE HIM IN OUR HEART IT MAKES US TO GIVE LOVE.
- LOVE CAUSES US TO GIVE CHEERFULLY. AS WE SEE THE JOY OF GIVING IT MAKES US WANT TO GIVE MORE AND MORE.
- LOVE MAKES US GIVE WITHOUT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN.

- JESUS DEMONSTRATED AGAPE LOVE IN HIS INCARNATION AND ON THE CROSS, WHICH REVEAL THAT IT IS MORE THAN A FEELING, BUT IS SELFLESS LOYALTY AND DEVOTION REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT IS RETURNED. LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR FAITH, AND WITHOUT IT, OUR FAITH WILL CRUMBLE.

- REFLECT ON WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE IN FAMILY, CHURCH, AND ON THE STREET, AND WHICH ASPECTS OF LOVE PRESENT THE GREATEST CHALLENGE.  
DETERMINE WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO BEGIN TO OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE.