

Lesson 11

I Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

We have come to the pattern for the believer in regards to charity. Paul is the first one recorded in scripture to use the word **charity**. Paul uses it about 20 times. Peter uses it four times and it is found once in Jude and once in Revelation.

Most of the bible translations other than the KJV 1611 have dropped this word altogether and have substituted the word love. This is unfortunate and inaccurate. As we will see, charity involves love but has an additional component as well.

Paul’s first reference to charity is in I Cor. 8:1. What does charity do? _____
It builds up or edifies. I Cor. 8:3 gives us an explanation and insight into what charity is. I Cor. 8:3 “But if any man _____ God, the _____ is known of him.” Charity has everything to do with the activity that the love of God produces in our life.

The charity that should be on display in the believer’s life is the building up of others. This is the outworking of God’s love in us. All the charitable activity in our life should flow from and point others to the love of God.

Charity is the activity of the love of God on display in our lives.

Read I Cor. 13:1-13. In verse 1 what area should charity influence? _____

Yes, our speech. The best words, the smoothest most eloquent words are meaningless to God if they do not demonstrate the love of God. They may motivate or comfort others or encourage the downcast. But if they do not flow from the love of God they are offensive to the ear of God. Speaking words that declare the love of God aren’t always met with approval from those around us.

II Tim. 4:4 “And they shall turn _____ their _____ from the _____, and shall be turned unto _____.”

Have you ever felt like Micaiah, God’s prophet, when the King of Israel didn’t want to hear from him? Read I Kings 22:6-14. In verse 8, how did the King of Israel feel about Micaiah? He _____ him. Why? Because he did not prophesy _____ concerning him but _____. In verse 13 the messenger instructs Micaiah to prophesy like the rest of the lying prophets and speak that which is _____. But faithful Micaiah says in verse 14 “as the Lord liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I _____.”

Our words should deliver the truth of the love of God. God will be pleased and that’s really all that matters.

In verse 2 of I Cor. 13 what area should charity influence? _____

Our spiritual understanding.

Pulpits are filled with brilliant knowledgeable men who know the scriptures but are motivated by something other than the love of God. Nothing should work to move us to serve the Lord more than his love for us.

Lesson 11 Continued

All of our spiritual understanding, wisdom, faith should have their roots so anchored in the love of God that it consumes us.

Eph. 3:17-19 “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in _____, May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Rom. 5:5 “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the _____ of _____ is shed abroad in our _____ by the Holy Ghost which is given unto you.”

God’s love operating in our hearts manifesting itself in our lives should be our prayer just as it was Paul’s.

In I Cor. 13:3 charity should influence our sacrifice. If the love of God is not the constraining force, all the money, time and sacrifice in Christian service is worthless as far as God is concerned. Men who serve the Lord for the praise of man are not moved by charity.

Paul says that without charity, that he is _____ in I Cor. 13:2 and that all one’s sacrifice without charity profits him _____ in vs. 3. What does that mean? I Cor. 3:12-15. All the believers work that is motivated by something other than the love of God will just be so much fuel for the fire. Verse 13 “...and the _____ shall try every man’s _____ of what sort it is.”

I Tim. 4:8 “For _____ exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto _____ things,”

Bodily exercise is the human effort made by believers to gain acceptance or self worth either before God or man. There may be a short term profit to be gained but there is no eternal value.

Next week we will study what the pattern of charity looks like in the believer’s life.

Lesson 11 Comments and Answers

Correction for lesson 11. Incite should have been “insight”.

As a youth, according to our verse, we should be an example of the believer in charity.

Charity is the activity of the love of God demonstrated in our lives.

Does this mean we join or give to walk-a-thons, tele-a-thon, house building projects, shelter, foundations, etc?

No! We make judgments!

II Cor. 2:15 “But he that is _____ all things,”

Phil. 1:9, 10 says “And this I pray, that your _____ may abound yet more and more in _____ and in all _____; That ye may approve things that are _____; that ye may be sincere and without offences till the day of Christ;”

We will see as we study charity that the things that God loves are the same things we should love and be busy with.

Edifieth	speak
Love	understanding
Same	love
Speech	love
Away	God
Ears	hearts
Truth	nothing
Fables	nothing
Hated	fire
Good	work
Evil	bodily
Good	all