

Lesson 13

The next few examples of charity in I Cor. 13:4 will be looked at in this lesson.

1. Charity is kind. Let's look at the kindness of God.

Ne. 9:17 "And _____ to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that those didst among them; but _____ their necks, and in their _____ appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God _____ to _____, gracious and merciful, slow to _____, and of great _____, and forsookest them _____."

Luke 6:35 is a promise made to Israel "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is _____ unto the _____ and to the _____."

I'm seeing that God's kindness is extended to the undeserving and the unlovable. It's easy to be kind to little old ladies, babies, the helpless, the sick and the injured. But the mean, wicked, nasty, rude, cheating, unfair, inconsiderate people we encounter are another thing! Well that pretty much described us when we were without Christ.

Titus 3:3 "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, _____, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in _____ and _____, _____, and _____ one another."

OUCH! What a description. Thank God for verse 4. "But after that (all the above) the _____ and _____ of God our Savior toward man _____."

God puts great value on kindness to the undeserving.

Are we tempted to give others the silent treatment, the back of the hand, the look of disdain, rejection, anger, or contempt?

Kindness is grace in action.

2. Charity envieth not.

Envy is the attitude of dislike, or ill feelings towards another person's advantage or prosperity. And we all say, "Not me". I'm happy for the success of others. Really?

When your sister/brother beats you at a game? When your friend outshines you on a test? When you get the smallest piece of cake? When someone else gets picked to be the star? When you are overlooked for a pay raise? When you're not first?

Charity genuinely seeks to put others first.

Phil. 2:4 "Look not every man on his _____ things, but every man also on the things of _____."

Lesson 13 Continued

Rom. 12:10 “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor _____ one _____.”

3. Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

Vaunted – boast, brag, praise oneself. “Look at me”.

The Bible is full of examples of the undoing of pride. Beginning with Lucifer, read Ex. 28:1-19. Read about Nebuchadnezzar in Dan. 5:18-21.

Vaunting – puffed up – is a focus on self. This does not mean that we go around apologizing for living. But we find our value in who we are in Christ. Our flesh should be viewed as stated in Rom. 3:12 “...there is _____ that doeth _____, no not _____.”

Rom. 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my _____,) dwelleth _____ thing:”

But in Christ I find my value. I boast (glory) in the _____ according to Gal. 6:14. And rejoice in the new _____ in Gal. 6:15.

Phil. 3:7-9. There’s nothing worthy of boasting about that our flesh has achieved.

Charity gives us an accurate assessment of ourselves.

II Cor. 10:17, 18 “But he that glorieth, let him _____ in the _____. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord _____.”

Thank God the Lord has commended us! He speaks well of us, finds us acceptable, actually praises us. Rom. 2:29 and I Cor 4:5 “...and then shall every man have _____ of _____.”

If we can grasp the “praise of God” we already have in Christ, it would eliminate the self praise we sometimes think we need.

Next week it’s on to verse 5 of I Cor. 13. Being an example of the believer in charity encompasses quite a list.

Lesson 13 Answers and Comments

Refused	preferring
Hardened	another
Rebellion	none
Ready	good
Pardon	one
Anger	flesh
Kindness	no
Not	good
Kind	cross
Unthankful	creature
Evil	glory
Disobedient	Lord
Malice	commendeth
Envy	praise
Hateful	God
Hating	
Kindness	
Love	
Appeared	
Own	
Others	

I Cor. 3:5 on the second page of lesson 13 should be I Cor. 4:5

We skipped the last two weeks due to the holiday and taking care of 3 of our grandchildren for a week. I hope you're enjoying this extensive definition of charity that God's Word goes into. Thank God for the indwelling Spirit of God that enables us to example this important characteristic. Eph. 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"