

## Lesson 14

Memory verse – I Cor. 13:4,5

Verse 5 – charity does not behave itself unseemly. If you're unsure of what unseemly means, look it up. Write the definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Unseemly is used only one other place in the Bible. Rom. 1:27 "...men with men working that which is \_\_\_\_\_..."

God does not mince any words about this subject. Our society, under the guise of "tolerance" wants to legitimize, excuse and accept as normal, this type of behavior. Nowhere in the word of God do we see this. Are we to be kind and loving to people involved with this sin? In Acts 17:16 we see Paul at Athens. As he looks at this great city wholly given to idolatry his spirit \_\_\_\_\_ within. Our spirit should be stirred (moved, provoked) with compassion to bring the message of God's grace and deliverance to others regardless of the sin preference they are involved with.

This type of behavior is not new. We see it in the very first book of the Bible. Gen. 19:1-7, in verse 5, the men of the city wanted to know them. That hardly means in an innocent way. In Lev. 18:22 God says, "Thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ lie with \_\_\_\_\_, as with \_\_\_\_\_: it is \_\_\_\_\_." This sin in particular is a sign of a city or a nation that has sunk to the depths of sin and wickedness. God's response to Sodom and Gomorrah was severe.

Gen. 19:24, God rained \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ out of heaven and destroyed all the inhabitants of those cities. When we see the hatred God has for sin, can we begin to appreciate the longsuffering He is demonstrating to a wicked, sinful, and rebellious world? God will one day return in vengeance with flaming \_\_\_\_\_ as it says in II Thess. 1:7-9. It is our privilege and responsibility to present our bodies as instruments of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 6:13) unto God.

The saints at Corinth were involved in all sorts of "unseemly" behavior and yet were still viewed by God as saints. Speaking to the church at Corinth, filled with carnal believers, God says, I Cor. 1:2 "...called to be \_\_\_\_\_, with all that in every place \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_..." And they had the same eternal security every believer has.

Verse 8, "Who shall also \_\_\_\_\_ you unto the \_\_\_\_\_, that ye may be \_\_\_\_\_ in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 9, "\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, by whom ye were \_\_\_\_\_ (summoned) unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

Did you notice who is faithful in vs. 9? \_\_\_\_\_. Yes, God is faithful! We are not always faithful but praise God our security does not rest or depend on that! Does this prompt us to sin?? Rom. 6:1 "What shall we say then? Shall we \_\_\_\_\_ in sin, that grace may abound?" Can we say anything but what Paul says in vs. 2

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 14 Continued

Unseemly behavior has no place in the believer's life. Charity, God's love working in us, does not behave itself unseemly.

### I Cor. 13:5 Charity seeketh not her own

Look back at chapter 10:24, 33 and Rom. 15:1, 2 and Gal. 5:13 ... by love \_\_\_\_\_ one another." And Phil. 2:4 "Look not every man on his \_\_\_\_\_ things, but every man on the things of \_\_\_\_\_."

Charity is seeking the well being of others. Willing even to sacrifice one's own liberty for the spiritual good of another.

We can find no greater example of this than in Rom. 15:3 "For even Christ \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_; but, as it is written, The \_\_\_\_\_ of them that \_\_\_\_\_ thee fell on me." There was a popular song out some years ago called "It's My Turn". This philosophy is promoted by man but it is foreign to the mind of Christ. Read and meditate on Phil. 2:5-8.

### I Cor. 3:5 Charity is not easily provoked

Are you a hot head? Moved to anger easily? Moses is described by God as a \_\_\_\_\_ man in Numbers 12:3, in fact the meekest in all the earth. Yet did Moses get provoked? Numbers 20:10-12 "And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock \_\_\_\_\_..." Look at Ps. 106:32, 33 "They \_\_\_\_\_ him also at the waters of strife, so that it went \_\_\_\_\_ with Moses for their sakes: vs. 33 Because they \_\_\_\_\_ his spirit, so that he \_\_\_\_\_ with his \_\_\_\_\_."

If the meekest man on the earth got provoked, let's be honest, we do too at times. But charity, the operational love of God, in our lives does not pattern itself in this behavior.

### I Cor. 13:5 Charity thinketh no evil

Now that my children are older, they will occasionally say to me "Didn't you know or suspect" this or that when they were growing up. I quickly point them to this verse. Thinking well of others is what we are called to do. Not being suspicious, imagining things, doubting, questioning, suggesting ulterior motives.

Jeremiah says in Jer. 11:19 when the people of his own city plotted to kill him that he was like a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_ just plain dumb when it came to thinking evil about those who planned to kill him.

In II Sam. 10:1-3 we find the suggestion to Hanun by his advisors that David might have had an ulterior motive for showing his kindness. Do we ever think like this?

### **Lesson 14 Continued**

I Tim. 6:4 calls this type of thinking evil \_\_\_\_\_. Charity, the love of God at work in our lives will not hunt out the wrong in others but will instead even conceal or cover them. I Peter 4:8 “And above all things have fervent \_\_\_\_\_ among yourselves: for \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.” Yes, we do judge things and discipline behavior but whenever possible think well of others, don’t be imagining evil or suspicious.

See you next week in vs. 6 in our continued study of charity.

## Lesson 14 Answers and Comments

Corrections on lesson 14. I Cor. 3:5 on page 2 should be 13:5 and Gen. 19:24 is rained not reined.

Answers:

Unseemly	own
Stirred	others
Not	pleased
Mankind	himself
Womankind	reproaches
Abomination	reproached
Brimstone	meek
Fire	twice
Fire	angered
Righteousness	ill
Saints	provoked
Call	spake
Name	unadvisedly
Jesus	lips
Christ	lamb
Lord	ox
Confirm	surmisings
End	charity
Blameless	charity
God	cover
Faithful	multitude
Called	sins
God	
Continue	
God	
Forbid	
Serve	

Charity is such a rich word. It is comprehensive in it's meaning. When we read or hear this word the multitude of the facets of it should sparkle like a diamond in our mind. Aren't you glad we have a lifetime to example it to others?