

SHOW ME LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

- **In our LOVE FOR REAL series we've learned that:**
  - **Our #1 goal in life should be to love God and others better and better (Mark 12:29-31).**
  - **Love is a choice we can make, an action we can take, a skill we can develop, and a habit we can adopt.**
  - **The best use of life is love, the best expression of love is time, and the best time to show love is now.**
  - **We're to love others like Jesus has loved us (John 13:34-35) - accepting them, valuing them, forgiving them and believing in them.**
- **Love is often the most misunderstood word in the world.**
- **Real love is a matter of commitment (John 15:12), choice (Colossians 3:14) and conduct (1 John 3:18).**
- *"Let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions."* (1 John 3:18)
- **Showing people love requires figuring out how to deal with difficult, demanding, disappointing and even destructive people.**
- *"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out."* (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)

We "Show People Love" When We Are:

PATIENT RATHER THAN IMPATIENT

- *"Love is patient and . . . It does not demand its own way."* (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- **Patience helps us to strengthen relationships, grow spiritually, and treat people like the Lord treats us.**
- *"Smart people are patient . . ."* (Proverbs 19:11 NCV)

- **The more we understand about a person - their background, battles and burdens- the more patient we will be with them.**
- *"A man's wisdom gives him patience. It is his glory to overlook an offense."* (Proverbs 19:11)

We "Show People Love" When We Are:

KIND RATHER THAN UNKIND

- *"Love is patient and kind . . ."* (1 Corinthians 13:4)
- **Kindness is an attribute we should "put on" on a daily basis.**
- *"You must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* (Colossians 3:12)
- **Being kind to others requires being sensitive to their needs.**
- *"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."* (Philippians 2:4)
- **People need kindness because most everyone is hurting (Romans 12:15).**
- **We need to "build people up" not "tear people down" with our words.**
- *"Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit."* (Proverbs 15:4 GNB)
- *"Righteous people know the kind thing to say, but the wicked are always saying things that hurt."* (Proverbs 10:32 GNB)

We "Show People Love" When We Are:

HUMBLE RATHER THAN PRIDEFUL

- *"Love is not jealous or boastful or proud."* (1 Corinthians 13:4)
- **Pride brought down the Devil and the first humans, and still brings defeat to many people in our day and time (Isaiah 14:12, Genesis 3:1-6).**
- *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. So humble yourselves before God."* (James 4:6-7)
- **Humility is an attitude that sees others as very important, and views our life and worth from God's perspective (Romans 12:3).**
- **We are able to stay humble by remembering who the Lord is to us and what He has done for us (Psalm 8:3-4).**

We "Show People Love" When We Are:

TACTFUL RATHER THAN JUST TRUTHFUL

- *"Love . . . is not rude."* (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- **When people are rude we must refuse to be rude back.**
- **We can overcome rudeness by listening sympathetically.**
    - **Interrupting people while they are talking is rude.**
    - *"Answering before listening is stupid and rude."* (Proverbs 18:13 Msg)
- **We can overcome rudeness by responding tactfully to others.**

    - *“<u>Don’t</u> <u>yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude</u>. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others.”* (Ephesians 4:31-32 CEV)
    - “Rudeness is a weak man’s imitation of strength.” (Eric Hoffer)
- **We can overcome rudeness by speaking encouragingly.**
    - *“The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive.”* (Proverbs 16:21)
    - **The way we say something determines how it’s received.**

We Exhibit “Tough Love” When We Are:

<u>GENTLE</u> RATHER THAN IRRITABLE

- *“Love . . . is not irritable.”* (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- *“Believers must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.”* (Titus 3:2)
- **We often get irritable with people because of dumb things they say or do.**
- *“If someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit.”* (Galatians 6:1)
- **We can have tough conversations with people in a tender way.**
- **When people say something ugly to us we can: 1) attack them (which puts us below them), 2) get even with them (which puts us even with them), or 3) say something nice to them (which puts us above them).**
- *“Kind words heal and help. Cutting words wound and maim.”* (Proverbs 15:4 Msg)
- **We need to bring healing and help to others with our words.**

We Exhibit “Tough Love” When We Are:

<u>FORGIVING</u> RATHER THAN UNFORGIVING

- *“Love . . . keeps no record of being wronged.”* (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- **“Hurt people” constantly renew their hurt: 1) emotionally in their minds, 2) relationally as a weapon, and/or 3) verbally by telling others about it.**
- **When people wrong us we shouldn’t “remember it.”**
    - *“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.”* (Proverbs 17:9)
- **When people wrong us we shouldn’t “rehearse it.”**
    - *“Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.”* (Ephesians 4:26-27)
- **When people wrong us we shouldn’t “repeat it.”**
    - **We shouldn’t repeat our hurts: 1) in our minds, 2) in relational fights, or 3) to other people.**
    - *“Gossip is spread by wicked people. They stir up trouble and they break up friendships.”* (Proverbs 16:28)

- ***What are we to do when others hurt us?***
- Jesus – *"If you are angry with someone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins."* (Mark 11:25)
- **Forgiveness is not "forgetting" but "letting go" of the offense.**
- *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God . . . has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:31-32)

- The Golden Rule - *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."* (Luke 6:31)
- ***What is God communicating to me through this message?***