

Love is Not Jealous I Corinthians 13:4

Introduction:

- I. We are continuing our series on love this morning with a study of another thing that describes true Christian love.
 - a. We have discussed that love is patient and kind.
 - b. Today we will deal with something that love is not: jealous.
 - i. “Charity envieth not.”
- II. “Jealousy” can be a term to describe a couple of things.
 - a. To be positively and intensely interested in something (zealous).
 - i. I Cor. 12:31; 14:1, 39.
 - b. To desire (for the benefit of the other person) someone to be on your side.
 - i. God is a jealous God. This is not a bad thing.
 1. Parents: are you sometimes jealous of your children’s time, so that you can keep them from some of the things their friends might be doing, or to teach them about life?
 2. Jealousy that is there because we want what’s best for someone is not what is talked about in I Cor. 13:4.
 - c. The jealousy that is not love is selfish. This is when one has negative feelings over the successes or life of others.
 - i. Selfishness is the root of most sins by itself.
 1. People often lie, kill, steal, and do all sorts of other things because of selfishness.
 2. We will discuss why.
 - ii. This jealousy leads us to do all kinds of evil.

Discussion:

- I. James 4:1-5
 - a. War, fighting, killing, and lust all have jealousy at their roots.
 - i. You lust and have not, so you kill and desire what belongs to others.
 - ii. You fight because you do not know how to ask.
 - iii. You ask and get “no,” because you are being selfish
 1. We must remove selfishness from our lives!
 - a. This is impossible without faith, desire for purity in character, and knowledge of the Bible (Hebrews 11:6; II Peter 1:5).
 - b. Then we must learn to be temperate.
 - i. “Nothing Too Much” = Self-Control
 - ii. This word means “inner strength over one’s desires, impulses, and emotions.”
 - c. Without self-control, we cannot lead lives characterized by patience, godliness, kindness, or love.

- i. We cannot endure temptation, be reverent to God, treat others right, or have the love of God in our hearts without self-control.

- 1. This means heaven is impossible for the person who has no self-control!

II. Biblical examples of what jealousy does.

a. Genesis 37

- i. Joseph's brothers were jealous, and it led them to lie to their father about his most precious son!

- 1. They sold their own brother to a caravan of Ishmaelites (also descendants of Abraham).

b. Joshua 7:20-21

- i. While Israel was conquering Jericho, Achan saw fine clothing, gold, and silver, and desired it for himself.

- 1. When he stole it, Israel went into battle with Ai and lost. People were discouraged, Israel was mocked by Ai, and several Israelites lost their lives.

c. II Samuel 11

- i. King David saw Bathsheba, desired her, and broke half of the Ten Commandments in one fell swoop.

- 1. He coveted a wife, committed adultery, lied, killed, and stole her for his wife.

- 2. His passion and jealousy removed his ability to think clearly and act justly (12:1-6).

- a. He had no clue that he had just condemned himself!

- b. When he came to himself, he wrote Psalm 51.

III. How to overcome jealousy

a. Revelation 2:5 tells us the Recipe for Repentance, for it says,

- i. "Remember where your mistake began, correct it, and start over from there."

- ii. II Peter 1:5-11 tells us how to live without stumbling, how to prevent being barren or unfruitful.

- 1. Supplement your faith with:

- a. Virtue, Knowledge, Self-Control, Patience, Reverence, Kindness, Love.

- 2. If you are jealous simply because you have ill feelings toward a person, you must learn how to love.

- a. If you are jealous because you do not control your emotions, you must begin with self-control and work your way up to love.

- b. If you are jealous because you lack moral strength or faith, then you really need to start over.

- i. It will not come without a strong desire to be pure and please God.

- 1. That desire must be followed by faith and growth in knowledge.