

SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES # 1

"Love In Action"

Int.

1. Aim: To show how love is to be the rule for all members of the family.
2. 1 Cor. 13 is the great chapter on love
 - a. In the context it is a very important part of the truth
 - b. The principles and characteristics of love described here are some of the best that you will find anywhere.
3. A family that is successful must practice pure genuine love as described in this chapter.
4. Notice how it works: Love in Action in the Family

Discussion

I. LOVE IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE MARRIAGE

- A. Courtship - dating
 1. Attraction
 2. Grows into love
 3. Then engagement
- B. Marriage
 1. Ceremony
 2. Honeymoon
 3. Happily married
 4. Live in marriage until death
- C. Family
 1. Love for children
 2. Children love parents

II. THE "DEFINITION" OF LOVE 1 Cor. 13:4-8a

A. LOVE'S "POSITIVE" QUALITIES

1. Suffers long - self restraint, endure without complaining, calm self control
2. Is kind - "kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life"
 - a. Some people have a kind sound to their speech
 - b. Some have the ability to make us feel their kindness whenever they speak to us.
 - (1) It is not just their words or exactly the way they say it.
 - (2) But it is a combination of these things along with the love that fills their heart.
 - (3) Prov. 31:26 we read about the virtuous woman. It says "**in her tongue is the law of kindness.**"
 - (4) The law of kindness will guide her choice of words
 - (5) This law of kindness will be noticed by those to whom she speaks.
 - (6) It is because her heart is filled with love that she has a tongue that follows the law of kindness.
3. Rejoices in the truth - Love takes a stand for the truth and against all sin
4. Optimistic - Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things
5. Never fails

B. LOVE'S "NEGATIVE" QUALITIES

1. Does not envy; does not parade itself, is not puffed up
2. Does not behave rudely, unseemly
3. Does not seek its own, - not selfish, self-centered
4. Is not easily provoked - short tempered
 - a. Provoke - means to be irritated - roused to anger
 - b. Love helps us to govern our temper, restrain, and subdue our feelings
5. Thinks no evil, Does not rejoice in iniquity

C. Love is the key to a successful family

III. WHY DO PEOPLE LOVE ?

A. Love is something we choose to do or not to do

1. Love is a deliberate choice we make
2. We can love others who do not love us
3. It is easier when there is something that attracts us to that person who is the object of our love

B. Love is a command

1. God loved us while we were yet enemies, dead in sins - Rom. 5:8
2. Now he commands us to love one another as He has loved us.
3. Not an automatic reaction, but a command to be obeyed
4. Some argue that they cannot love their husband or wife because of the way they are.

- a. "If you only knew how he/she really is".
 - b. It is true that some people are easier to love than others
 - c. But the love we are to have in the family is not dependent upon how they act
5. Notice these verses:
- a. 1 Jn. 4:8-11 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."
 - b. 1 Jn. 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."
 - c. Jn. 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."
 - d. 1 Jn. 4:20-21 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."
- C. As we choose to love there are certain traits we develop.
1. Our love for one another is based on our love for God.
 2. True love for God comes from a recognition of the Love He has for us.
 3. We see and understand his love, we love Him in return and then learn to imitate His love for others.

IV. FAMILY BEHAVIOR THAT GROWS OUT OF LOVE

A. Patience and Gentleness

1. Eph. 4:1-2 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;"
2. It is essential in living together as a family.
3. In a family everyone knows each other's faults more than anybody else.
4. We can either let these faults tear us apart or strive to overcome them.
5. Patience is essential in teaching our children.

B. Forgiving

1. 1 Pet. 4:8 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."
2. There will be problems in any home -- but love can overcome.
3. Having a willingness to forgive is essential if our families are going to be successful. This is a characteristic of love.

C. Willingness to correct

1. Heb. 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."
2. Rev. 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."
3. Gal. 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

4. True love desires what is best for the one loved
 - a. In the church - not good for one to continue in sin -- it hurts the individual and the congregation - those who love will confront and try to help correct
 - b. In the family - a child must develop self-control and learn right from wrong. Children must be trained to respect authority at an early age so they will be able to respect God's authority when they grow older. The first authority children are subject to is their parents. As they grow older, this is transferred to God's authority.

D. Courteous

1. 1 Pet. 3:8 "...be courteous" "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"
2. Be kind, polite -- used this one time in the N.T.
3. We should practice this all the time with our family.

E. Concern for others

1. Eph. 6:21 "But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:"
2. Col. 4:7-9 "All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord: 8. Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; 9. With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here."

3. Paul assumes that they are interested in what is happening in his life because they have care one for another.
4. This concern for one another is a natural outgrowth of love.
5. When we have love for our family, we will be concerned and interested what is happening in their lives.
6. Not a busybody or meddler in other peoples matters but we have a genuine concern for others because of our love for them.

F. Willingness to serve

1. 1 Jn. 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."
 - a. Christ came to serve, not to be served.
 - b. The reason He did this was because of His love for us.
2. As we learn to love our family, we will naturally desire to do for them, not sitting back and having them do everything for us.
 - a. Mothers - Tit. 2:3-5
 - b. Fathers - Eph. 5:25-29
 - c. Children - Eph. 6:1-2
3. In our families we will serve one another - this is because we love one another. If we have love then we have a successful family. The wife serves her husband, the husband serves the wife, the children serve the parents, and the parents are serving and raising their children. This is the kind of family God wants us to be!!!

CONCLUSION

1. A successful family is the goal of everyone !!!
 - a. As a Husband/father Wife/mother Parent/child
 - b. We all want it to succeed !!!
2. Marriage is for those who love God and one another - Thomas B. Warren
3. Successful Families are for those who love God and one another.
4. An old proverb reads: "If there be righteousness within the individual there will be happiness within the home; if there be happiness within the home there will be harmony in the nation; if there be harmony in the nation there will be peace in the world "¹
5. A house is built of logs and stones
 of tiles and posts and piers.
 A home is built of loving deeds
 That stand a thousand years !
 by Victor Hugo
6. III. "The most Beautiful thing in the world"

¹ Marriage is for those who love God and one Another - Warren p. 6

"The most Beautiful thing in the world"

"The story is told of an artist who wanted to paint the most beautiful picture in the world. He asked a preacher, "What is the most beautiful thing in the world?" The preacher answered, "Faith; you can feel it in the church and find it in the lives of the members."

A young bride replied to the question "What is the most beautiful thing in the world?" by saying "Love. It builds poverty into riches, sweetens your tears, makes much of little. Without love there can be no beauty."

A weary soldier answered the question by saying, "Peace: is the most beautiful thing in the world. War, the ugliest. Wherever you find peace, you find beauty."

"Faith, Love, and Peace: How can I paint them?" said the artist. Entering his own home, he saw FAITH in the eyes of his children, LOVE in the eyes of his wife. And there in his home, he found PEACE that LOVE and FAITH had built. So he painted the picture of the most beautiful thing in the world and when he had finished it, he called it, "HOME !"

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -
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