



IBCD
Women's
Pre-Conference
2014

"Attitudes of a
Transformed Heart"



ATTITUDES OF LOVE

I. Introduction

- A. Martha's personal example.
- B. This lecture covers (1) what to teach your counselees regarding loving God and others, (2) a definition of a loving heart, (3) Biblical principles, and (4) practical Biblical application.

II. What do I teach my Counselees on how to show love to others?

- A. Gospel ["We show the power of the Gospel by loving all people."ⁱ
1 John 4:16
- B. Positional Truth (what it means to be "in Christ" – literally that means to be "in union with Christ"). This is a work of God when he saves you. 1 Cor. 6:19
- C. Sanctification: the process of God making you holy, like Christ. After salvation, Christians begin to "progressive" grow in Christlikeness. This is a work of God, by His grace convicting and helping us, *and* a responsibility of man to work at it thereby "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." 1 Timothy 4:7
- D. The Put-off and Put-on Concept (Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3)
- E. The Big Picture: Matthew 22:35-40 – Love God by obeying Him (John 14:15) and love others by being patient, kind, etc.
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
- F. For homework, a self- talk log (write down what you are thinking when you feel frustrated or irritated).
- G. Teach Biblical Principles regarding a loving heart and the practical application that flows from the principles.

III. Attitudes of a Loving Heart

- A. Definition: a desire and/or act towards God in obedience to His Word and a desire or act towards another person wanting the very best for that person.

B. Biblical Principles

1. The only reason that love even exists is because "God is love." ⁱⁱ
1 John 4:16

2. We are to love God wholly and our neighbors as ourselves. Matt. 22:39.
3. Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (We don't naturally put God and others first.) Gals. 5:22; 2 Corinthians 5:14.
4. Obedience proves love. 1 John 5:3.
5. Our ability to love biblically comes from God. 1 John 4:7-8,19.
5. Jesus is our example of how love acts. He wants the very best for us -- to be right with God. 1 John 4:9-10; Eph.5:2.
6. Love overcomes fear. 1 John 4:18.
7. Our love for God is seen in our love for others even those that are our enemies. 1 John 4:20-21; Matthew 5:43-48.
8. We are to love and pray for those who are against us. Matthew 5:43-48.
9. We owe a debt of love to one another. It can never be fully repaid. . Romans 13:8.
10. We are to pursue love. 1 Cor. 14:1; 1 Corinthians 16:14.
11. Love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

IV. Application

A. How Love Acts 1 John 3:18; 4:7-11

1. If you love God, *you put Him first*. You think, "What would the Lord want me to do?" John 14:15
2. You are humble and realize that it is God (the Holy Spirit) who supernaturally gives you the ability to love sacrificially. 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
3. We all are naturally selfish but when we put God and others first, we are usually happier. "Love does not seek its own way."
1 Cor. 13:5

4. Love is not necessarily an emotion but is an action -- patient, kind, etc. There may be affections there, but there is always action.

1 Cor. 13:4-8

B. Examples of “renewing your mind” by “putting on love.”

1 Cor. 14:1 and Matthew 22:39

Sinful (unloving) Thought or Action	Loving Thought or Action 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
“This child makes me so mad!”	“ <u>Love is patient</u> . I <i>can</i> correct him with a gentle tone of voice.”
“That car needs to get out of my way!”	“I am being Providentially hindered so I will slow down and wait. Perhaps the person in the car in front of me sees something I do not. <u>I will patiently wait</u> .”
“My husband is late coming home again! He doesn’t love me. He only cares about himself.”	“My husband is late again. Perhaps something has happened. <u>Lord, thank You for testing my patience</u> this evening.”
“Why can’t anybody do anything right around here? Yelling at the family, “Turn off the TV and help me right now!”	Tell yourself, “It is OK to ask for help but it is not OK to scream in anger to ask for it. I will think about <i>what</i> I want to say and also <i>how</i> I want to say it before I ask for help. <u>Lord, help me to honor You and show love to my family</u> .”
Husband comes home tired and grumpy from work. Plots down in a chair and says nothing. Wife thinks, “It makes me mad that he didn’t bother to ask me about my day.”	Thinks, “ <u>Love is kind</u> . Perhaps he has had a bad day. What can I do to show kindness to him?” Goes over to her husband and offers to bring him a cool drink and then rubs his back for a little while.
In an angry tone, tells her husband, “I can’t believe you are playing golf again this Saturday! You didn’t even ask me how I felt about it.”	Thinks, “ <u>Love is not jealous</u> , the Lord will help me to be glad for him that he can play golf.” In a kind tone of voice, “I am glad that you are getting to play golf with your friends this weekend.”

<p>“My child would never do what her child did.”</p>	<p>“It is only by God’s grace that he doesn’t do something worse. If I am going to boast about something, I am going to boast about the Lord as <u>love does not brag.</u>”</p>
<p>“My husband told me that what I was doing was wrong. He doesn’t know what he is talking about. I will show him!”</p>	<p>“Lord, my husband told me that what I was doing was wrong. Help me to understand. Help me to be grateful for the ‘wounds of a friend. Even if he is wrong, help me to respond in love because <u>love is not arrogant.</u>”</p>
<p>Speaking in a frustrated tone of voice, “I want to go to the beach on vacation this year! I don’t want to go visit your Mother again!”</p>	<p>Thinking, “ Lord help me to be submissive to my husband if he wants to go visit his Mother. <u>Love does not seek its own way and this is a way that I can show love to him and his Mother.</u>”</p>
<p>Goes into child’s room and it is a mess. Mother had sent him there to clean his room. Yells in anger and starts kicking clothes around that are scattered on the floor. “You can’t do anything right! You did this deliberately to upset me. You are now on restriction for one year!”</p>	<p>Thinks, “<u>Love is not provoked</u> and the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. (James 1:20) I am going to sit down and calmly talk to my child about obeying and use his disobedience as a springboard for the Gospel.</p>
<p>My friend at church confided in me that she is going to divorce her husband. She does not have biblical grounds, but this is really none of my business so I will just listen and not say anything.</p>	<p>My friend at church confided in me that she is going to divorce her husband. I am going to exhort her not to do that. If she gets mad at me, she will just have to get mad. Even if she does not agree that I am showing love to her, I know that I <i>am</i> because <u>‘Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.’</u>”</p>
<p>“My husband has really disappointed me. I can’t believe he did what he did! Why did God allow this to happen to me?”</p>	<p>“My husband has really disappointed me. I can’t believe he did what he did! Lord help me to show love to him anyway, to speak the truth in love, and know that every day I</p>

	endure this and honor You, I am showing love to You as ' <u>love endures all things.</u> '"
Even though I cannot prove it, I am sure that my friend is not telling me the truth. I cannot believe she would do that to me!	Since I cannot prove it, I will give my friend the benefit of the doubt as " <u>Love believes all things.</u> "
Cannot sleep because remembers how she felt when as a child her brother made fun of her.	Says to herself, "I am not going to keep thinking about what he did because 'Love does not take into account a wrong suffered.'"

V. Conclusion

- A. I was not born a naturally kind, tender hearted, loving, and patient person. My Mother reminded me frequently. It took the supernatural power of God's love poured into my heart to make me really love others.
- B. Sanctification is a process that begins at the moment of salvation, but from that moment on, it is a grace from God to convict and help us *and* a responsibility of man to "discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness." 1 Timothy 4:7
- C. Loving others is the second greatest commandment. We, ourselves, should take God's command very seriously, be aware of times we are not showing love, then put on love in a practical way by what we think and do. God is the One who gets the credit and the glory.
- D. We, as counselors, should take it very seriously, and teach, pray for, and exhort our counselees to renew their minds with Scripture and "put on love ..."

ⁱ Chuck Lawless. "10 Reasons Why We Must Love Unlovable Church members."

ⁱⁱ Kent Keller, Fellowship Group Lessons, winter 2014, Faith Bible Church, Sharpsburg, Georgia.

PURE MENTAL ATTITUDES

I. Introduction

A. Matthew 5:8. "Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God."

B. Today's Lesson

II. Ten Biblical Principles regarding Right Thinking

A. To have right thinking we must have the right **presuppositions** about God.

Eph.1:1-14

B. We must have right thinking about God's **Word**. 1 Pet.2:2; Ps. 19:7

C. There is a **battle** for the mind. 2Cor. 10:3-5

D. In the Christian, there is to be a **renewing** of the mind. Romans 12:1-2.

E. We are to take **charge** of our thought life. 1 Peter 1:13.

F. Develop a Biblical **frame of reference**. 1 Cor. 2:16; Col. 3:16

G. We are to "put off" **wrong thoughts** and "put on" Godly thoughts.

H. Sinful thought patterns begin with a **sinful heart**. Matt. 12:34-37; 15:16-20

I. We should not **daydream**. Eccles. 5:7

J. We are to build our thinking around the qualities in Phil. 4:8.

True -- **know to be a fact**

Honorable -- **worthy of respect**

Right -- **correct thought or action as determined by God**

Pure -- **does not lead to lust**

Lovely -- **promotes the best for the other person**

Good repute -- **does not promote slander**

Excellence and worthy of praise -- **points to God, gives Him the glory**

III. The Mental Attitude of Humility

A. Definition: a person who thinks no **higher** of himself than he ought to think realizing that in God's sight he has no merit of his own.

1. Romans 12:3 -- **don't think more highly of self than ought**

2. 1 Cor. 15:10 -- **by the grace of God**

3. Romans 12:10 -- **give preference to one another**

4. Ps. 25:9 -- **the humble are capable of learning God's ways**

5. Col. 3:12 -- **put on a heart of humility**

6. Matt. 18:3,4; 23:12; I Peter 5:6 -- **more humble, more pleasing to God**

7. Isa. 57:15 -- **God dwells with the humble**

8. James 4:6 -- **God gives grace to the humble**

B. Application

1. "God, **show me**..."
2. "God, **teach me**..."
3. "God, **help me**..."
4. Thinks first of **others'** feelings and needs.
5. Gives God the **credit** for achievement and salvation.
6. Truly **worshiping** God, not just religious pretense.
7. Willing to suffer **humiliation** and **embarrassment** for Jesus' sake.

IV. An Obedient Heart

- A. Definition. ...has a desire to perfectly **obey** the commandments of God.
1. 1 Peter 2:21; I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 2:5-8 -- **Jesus is our example.**
 2. Matt. 26:39 -- **puts God's desires ahead of own desires.**
 3. 1 Peter 1:14,15 -- **more obey God's truth, more like Jesus we become.**
 4. Acts 5:29 -- **will obey God even if must suffer for it.**

5. 1 John 2:3,4 -- **obedience is an evidence of salvation.**
6. Hebs. 11:8 -- **we obey by faith not by sight.**
7. John 14:15 -- **those who obey are those who love the Lord.**
8. 1 John 5:3 -- **His commands are not a burden.**

B. Application

1. Can sing "Oh, How I Love **Jesus.**"
2. Is obedient even when doesn't **want** to be.
3. Lives life based on the **Word** of God not **feelings.**
4. Is willing to stand up to **peer pressure.**
5. Is not walking with the rest of the **world.**
6. Is not a **chore** but a **joy** to do what God wants.

V. A Servant's Heart

A. Definition. A voluntary **slave** or servant to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Romans 1:1 – **we should volunteer**
2. Matt. 20:25-28—**God rewards servants**
3. Matt. 24:45,46 – **a true servant is faithful**
4. Mark 9:35 – **we should be a servant to others**
5. John 15:20 – **His servants will suffer persecution**

6. 1 Cor. 7:23 – **we are not to be slaves of men**
7. Phil. 2:7 – **we choose to become a servant**
8. 2 Tim. 2:24-26 – **the Lord's bondservants is ...**

B. Application

1. Our chores take on a new **purpose** when we do them as a servant to the Lord.
2. God want us to be **faithful** day by day, not periodic bursts of enthusiasm.
3. We are to be **kind** and **gentle** with others.
4. Ask God to give you a **servant's heart**.
5. Look for things you can do for **others**.

VI. A Grateful Heart

- A. Definition...finds a **reason** to be **thankful** in all things.
 1. 2 Cor. 9:15 – **thankful for God's gift of grace to us**
 2. Ps. 100:1-5 – **gratefulness is part of worshiping God**
 3. Rom. 1:21 – **not being grateful is a characteristic of unbelievers**
 4. Col. 3:15,16 – **we are commanded to be thankful**
 5. I Thes. 5:18; Job 1:21 – **be thankful for all things**

B. Application

1. ...is grace **oriented**.
2. Does not become **bitter or angry** when adversity comes.
3. Gives **expectations** to God and therefore is not disappointed when things don't work out like they want.
4. Is a **joy** to be around.
5. Is able to **worship** God as He **deserves and desires**.

VII. A Forbearing Spirit

A. Definition. Being **tolerant, putting up with**.

1. Rom. 3:25 – **God demonstrated His righteousness**
2. Eph. 4: 1-3—**we are to be tolerant of one another**
3. Col. 3:12,13 – **we are to bear with one another**
4. Phil. 4:5 – **our forbearance should be known to all**

B. Application

1. We are to follow the **example** of Jesus.
2. We are likely to become **intolerant** when we begin to judge motives.
3. We need to be **accepting** of differences that we have.
4. God puts **difficult** people in our lives sometimes for a purpose.

5. We choose to **glorify** God by being tolerant or to **sin** by being intolerant.
6. **Forbearance** and overlooking sin in the name of "it's none of my business" are two different things. Gals. 6:1

VIII. Conclusion

We must have right **thinking** which is the basis for having pure mental attitudes.

Examples:

"What about me?"

What can I do for them?

"God's commands are so hard."

It is a joy and privilege to serve God in this way.

"If I just had more money, then I'd be happy."

Thank you Lord for what you have given me.

"That person really irritates me."

Love is patient, I can show love to her by being patient and waiting.

"She embarrassed me, I'll never go back there again."

**Lord show me if I have done anything wrong and
how can I help my friend not to be so rude.**

