

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 4:7-11
Lesson #18
"Verbing" love
12/06/2020



1 Peter

Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a fallen world

This is who we are "in Christ"

This is how we should express our identity

	Indicative	Imperative				
"chosen"	Salvation	Sanctification	In the church	Shepherding		
Introduction						Conclusion
"aliens"	Chosen	Privileged	Submission	Suffering		
			In the world			
1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:12	2:13-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11	5:12-14

Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world.

1



1 Peter 4:7

"The end of all things is near;
 therefore, be of sound judgment
 and sober *spirit* for the purpose
 of prayer."

What should this mean for US?

- #1 Suffer injustice graciously
- #2 Share in Christ's death willingly
- #3 Separate from the world wisely
- #4 Sense the times prudently
- #5 Serve others eagerly (4:7-11)

2

1 Peter 4

"The end of all things is near;
 therefore, be of sound judgment and
 sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer."

"8 Above all, keep fervent (persistent) in your **love** for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be **hospitable** to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in **serving** one another as good **stewards of the multifaceted grace of God**. 11 Whoever **speaks** is to do so as *one who is speaking* actual words of God; whoever **serves** is to do so as *one who is serving* by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

3

As the end draws near
note what is NOT emphasized
or even mentioned!

- Change our circumstances
- The "Great Commission"
- Confessing sins
- Spiritual revival
- Social reform



4

"8 Above all, keep fervent (eager) in your **love** for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins."

Love is the MAIN thing
 and should come eagerly (from the heart).

Proverbs 10:12

"Hatred stirs up strife,
 but love covers all transgressions."

- "Hatred" divides while "love" unites
They have the opposite effects.

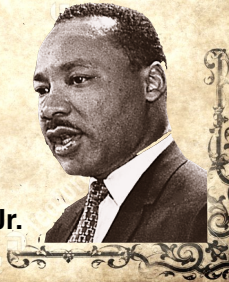
1 Corinthians 13:4-6

- **Peacemaking** comes through love not hatred.

5

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



6

Love
builds bridges
not walls.



1 Cor. 13:4-7

Love is a response to:

patient
kind
not jealous
does not brag
is not arrogant
does not act unbecomingly
does not seek its own
is not provoked
does not take into account a wrong suffered
does not rejoice in unrighteousness
rejoices with the truth
bears all things
believes all things
hopes all things
endures all things

trials
insults
success of others
success of self
power and authority
freedom
competition
challenging confrontation
injustice
failure of others
gossip and slander
loss
doubts
discouragement
delayed expectations

7

“Verbing” Love

“⁹ Be **hospitable** to one another without complaint.”

1. Social respect (love of strangers)

- Hospitality (respect for others) is perhaps the most **basic signs of love and at the core of human ethics**.
- This was a cultural necessity in the 1st cent. **and is a central feature of God’s kingdom.**

*This is to start
in the heart
but not end there.*

*This is to start
within the church
but not end there.*

8

love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
live in **harmony** with one another (Romans 12:16)
build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
be **likeminded** towards one another (Romans 15:5)
accept one another (Romans 15:7)
admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
be **patient** with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
be **kind and compassionate** to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
speak to one another with **psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)
look to the **interests** of one another (Philippians 2:4)
bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)
stir up one another to **love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
show **hospitality** to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
employ the **gifts that God has given us for the benefit** of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
clothe yourselves with **humility** towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
pray for one another (James 5:16)
confess our **faults** to one another (James 5:16)

The two greatest commands, on which, according to Jesus, all the others depend, are concerned with relationships, with God and one another

(Matthew 22:36-40)

44% of the N.T. Epistles are about our responsibilities to “one another”
4% is about teaching and preaching

9

Christian communities tend to be of two types depending on how they picture God.

Law
(noun)



“God is Holy”

Be sure that everyone believes & behaves properly

Grace
(verb)



“God is Love”

Be sure that everyone shows grace & mercy

10

Jesus was crucified for who he ticked off, and for who he refused to turn away.

Matthew 9

“¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax-gatherers and sinners?” ¹² But when He heard this, He said, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means, ‘**I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,**’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.””

Jesus’ hospitality was not to suggest his endorsement of all behaviors.

John 8:11 “I do not condemn you, ...
From now on sin no more.”

11

Hospitality starts with our treatment of Jesus.

Luke 10

“38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who moreove... the Lord’s word, seated at His feet. 40 ... distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, “Lord, tell her to help me.” 41 But the Lord said to her, “Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; but only a few things are necessary—only one, for Mary has chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from her.”

Duty

COMPLAINT

Anxiety

Respect

Showing respect for Jesus means letting him feed you not vice versa.

12

“10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in **serving** one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God.”

What moves “love” from a noun to a VERB?

1. *Social respect*

2. *Steward of gifts and grace*

- Gifts are a “stewardship” in service to the Body of Christ **not ourselves**.
- The Body of Christ and the Grace of God come in **different forms and ways**.

13

Uniformity is destructive to the Body of Christ.

We cannot be the Body of Christ by ourselves, without diversity.



14

Our physical nature.

- dna
- gender
- abilities
- temperament

Our natural history.

- social context
- personal experiences
- cultural perspective

Our spiritual growth.

- “carnal man”
- “babe in Christ”
- “mature in Christ”

Our spiritual gifts.

- anointing
- ministries
- effects

DIVERSITY

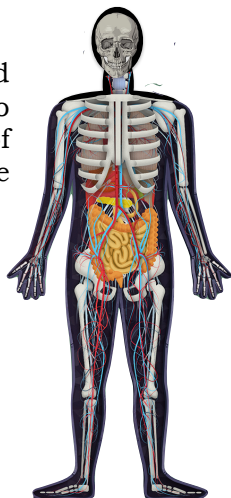
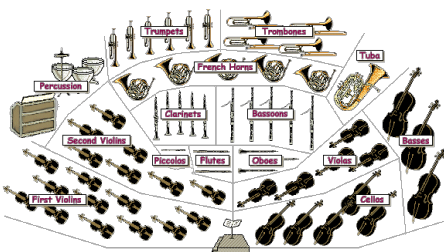


Our appointed role in the Body of Christ.

15

Matthew 25:40

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”



16

Don’t make your personal preferences the standard for everyone else.

1. Secondary doctrinal differences - water baptism.
2. Cultural life style issues - dress codes.
3. Personal decision making - vocation.
4. Ministry priorities - spiritual gifts.
5. Preferences in worship - music.
6. Political philosophy - party loyalty.
7. Civil legislation - capital punishment.



17

Don't confuse ideological tolerance with legal, and social tolerance.

1. **Legal tolerance** - the legal right to follow any religion or no religion.
2. **Social tolerance** - charity toward those who do not share our faith.
3. **Ideological tolerance** - the relativistic notion that one system of belief is as true as any other.

18

The Body of Christ is the Body of Christ



It's not a
"build-a-bear"
theological seminary.



19

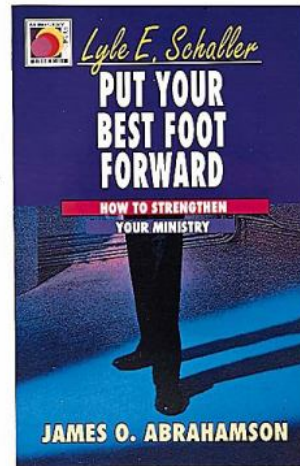
"A team plays for the name on the front of the jersey not for the name on the back!"

Dean Smith



Know yourself
Accept yourself
Get over yourself
Give yourself

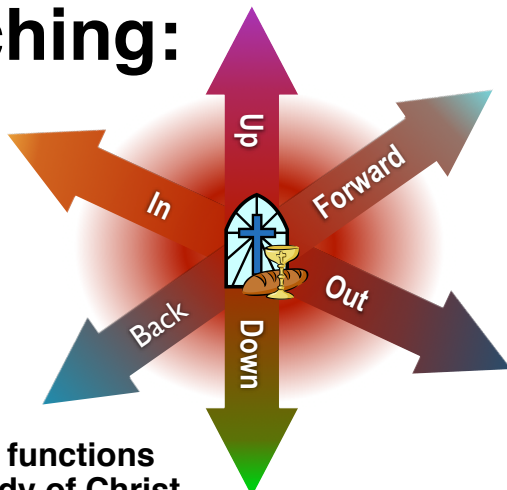
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Put Your Best Foot Forward
without losing
your balance
or kicking your neighbor.

21

Reaching:



Six basic functions
of the Body of Christ

22

"¹¹ Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is **speaking actual words of God**; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the **strength which God supplies**; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

What moves "love" from a noun to a VERB?

1. Social respect
2. Steward of gifts & grace

3. Strength from God

In the kingdom of God we are family,
not independent contractors.

We draw energy and authority
from one and the same Spirit.

23

1 Corinthians 3

"6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now **he who plants and he who waters are one**; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

The field is the Body of Christ (the church).

The members each have different callings and responsibilities.

God causes the growth.

24

Romans 12 Taking your baptism seriously

vs 14-21 I face suffering with grace

It is from Grace to Grace

vs 1a I am united with Christ

vs 9-13 I love all those who God loves

1. Grace of God must be deeply sensed

6. Response to the world must be graciously given

5. Love for the brethren must be openly shown

vs 1b-2 I have died to my old life

vs 6-8 I have a role in ministry

2. Cross of Christ must be willingly carried

vs 3-5 I am a member of Christ's body

4. Gifts of the Spirit must be properly used

3. Body of Christ must be rightly discerned

The Word of the Cross

The Way of the Cross

25

Romans 12

"6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; 8 or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness."



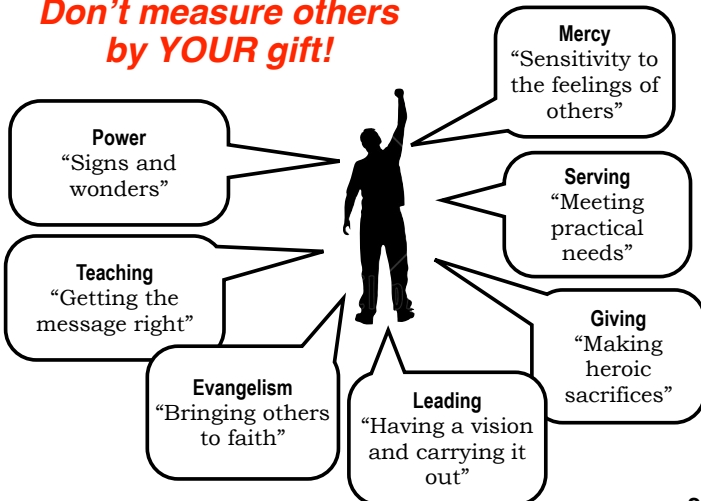
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How might each gift respond to spilled coffee?



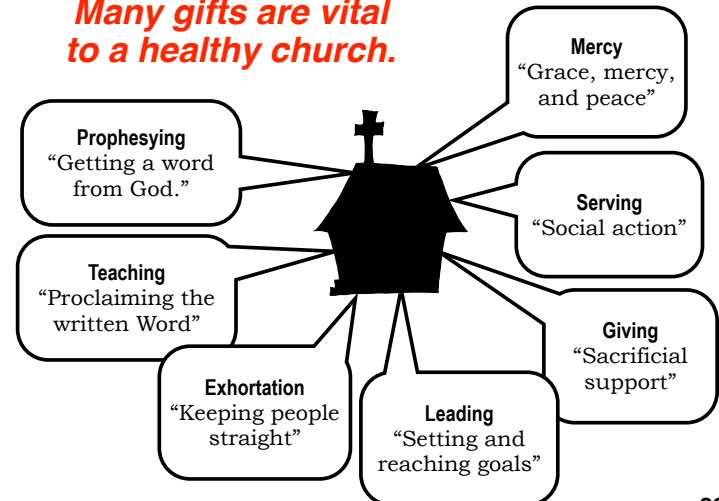
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Don't measure others by YOUR gift!



28

Many gifts are vital to a healthy church.



29

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

“Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

Motivations “gifts”	Ministries “ministries”	Manifestation “effects”
Perspective, Passion	Position	Profit
Rom.12	Eph.4	1 Cor.12

30

1 Peter 4:7



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- #3 Separate from the world wisely
- #4 Sense the times prudently

#5 Serve others lovingly

- Social respect
- Steward of gifts and grace
- Strength from God

31

1 Peter 4:7



“The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.”

Lord help us be sound and sober

- *You have loved us so we can be loving.*
- *You have given us grace so that we can be gracious.*
- *You have gifted us so that we can build up others.*
- *You have empowered us so that we can be courageous to love, give, and build.*

32