

Better Together (part 7)

Siege Your Mind

9.19.2018, 9.26.2018

Review

1 Timothy 3:14-15

I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1. Remember that God is body-conscious!
2. We together create an atmosphere ...
3. Don't let yourself be used like a cancer cell.
4. The way we treat each other is the way we treat Jesus Himself!
5. Think, act, and speak unity.
6. Allow love to help you overlook the flaws and misdeeds of others.
7. Be careful of personal bitter root judgments.
8. Don't gossip about or slander others.

Tonight: Change the Way You Relate to Others - Siege Your Mind

What is protocol for how we treat each other in the body of Christ?

Love is the protocol!

John 13:34-35 (NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. (35) Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Matthew 5:43-48 (NKJV)

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (44) But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, (45) that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all things have intense and unending love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others].

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, as a slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

1 Corinthians 14:1

EAGERLY PURSUE and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching).

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

1 John 4:16

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 John 4:17-18

And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

Matthew 24:12

And the love of the great body of people will grow cold because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity,

Matthew 24:12-

Message For many others, the overwhelming spread of evil will do them in—nothing left of their love but a mound of ashes.

But often, the love in us is hijacked by former conditioning.

A huge factor in life is our personal conditioning.

Home is where the heart is.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - NLT - The Shema

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. (5) And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. (6) And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. (7) Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. (8) Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. (9) Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

God's original plan was that parents raise their children in the atmosphere of love, and that parents through their relationship with each other show children what God is like.

But sin has skewed the process. Most people are not raised in an atmosphere of love and acceptance. Most are raised in atmospheres of fear, control, manipulation, and selfishness.

In the book, *Search for Significance*, 4 false beliefs that arise out of fallen humanity are identified:

1. Those who fail are unworthy of love, and deserve to be punished. (I am loved even when I fail. I am forgiven and deeply loved by God - 1 John 2:1-2.) *Propitiation*

You - down on yourself. Upset. Frustrated. Demotivated.

Others - little grace and space for mistakes or problems, or inconsistencies. Rigid in relationships. Demanding.

Galatians 6:1

2. I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself. (I am completely forgiven and fully pleasing to God - Justified! - 2 Corinthians 5:21.) *Justification*

You - perfectionism, very black and white, things have to be just right or you are upset with yourself, ill at ease...

Others - must perform just right, judgmental, too black and white, little margin for inconsistencies, critical...

3. I must be accepted by others to feel good about myself. (I am totally loved and accepted by God - Ephesians 1:4-6.) *Reconciliation*

You - defensive or even angry when critiqued, will not voice opinion in a group. Little tolerance for different opinions.

Others - chameleon, two-faced, inconsistencies, one way with one person and totally different with another, total people-pleaser...

4. I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless. (I am a new person in Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:17.) *Regeneration*

You - defeated, struggling, little drive or ambition, pessimistic, self-pity

Others - unreliable, resigned, nonchalant, critical, judgmental...

[from *The Search For Significance* by Robert S. McGee (Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998) p. 307]

Relationship dysfunction is a huge problem in American culture.

Broken homes result in broken relationships.

You live out what you've experienced until personal mind renewal has occurred.

My experience...

I started school at age 5. Immediately felt lonely and isolated. Felt as though others did not care about me. Rejected my appearance...clothing/hair/feet. Was the last person picked on ball teams at recess. Had no neighbors around my home since we lived in the country. Would rather be around the animals in my yard or out walking in the forest than with people. Was picked on by peers at an early age.

Rejection thinking ruled my thoughts! Walking into a room, my mind would tell me that nobody liked me.

Then I came to Jesus at age 18. Little by little the Lord began to unseat wrong thinking and wrong feelings about rejection.

1983 – Revelation – 1 Corinthians 4:3 - *It matters very little to me what you or any man thinks of me. I don't even value my opinion of myself.*

Personal pride would not allow me to admit that I had problems...

Then I pioneered a church, and Mondays were terrible. I would preach my heart out on Sundays (AM & PM) and on Mondays feel that everyone in the church was against me!

Here's what I found out...

Your mind and emotions can make you feel and think that things are real that really are not!

I had to siege my mind.

Siege

Cut off the supply line to a city until it gave out of resources.

I had to refuse to listen to the lies my mind and emotions told me about others and their thoughts towards me!

I made phone calls or personal visits to those I thought did not like me, and I proved to myself that my mind and my emotions were not telling me the truth!

The SIEGE was on!

You must reroute your thoughts about how to relate to others!

God's thoughts about you relating to others...

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (AMPC)

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. (5) It is not conceited

(arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. (6) It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. (7) Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (PHILLIPS)

This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. (5-6) Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails. (7-8a) Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

I CORINTHIANS 13:4 – 7 (various translations together)

(Insert your name for every underlined word and make this personal)

Let me describe love. It is slow to lose patience; love stays in difficult relationships with kindness, and it always looks for ways to be constructive. There is no envy in love. It is not possessive and never boils over with jealousy. Love makes no parade of himself/herself; it never boasts, nor does it puff up with pride. Love is never arrogant and never puts itself on display, because it is neither anxious to impress, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of his/her own importance. Love never gets irritated and is never resentful.

Love holds no grudges, and it keeps no record of evil done to him/her. Love refuses to be provoked and never harbors evil thoughts.

Love is not rude or grasping or overly sensitive, nor does love search for imperfections and faults in others. Love does not compile statistics of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails. Love celebrates what is real and not what is perverse or incomplete.

Love never does the graceless thing. Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. Love never insists on his/her own rights, never irritably loses his/her temper, and never nurses his/her wrath to keep it warm. Love is not touchy.

Love can stand any kind of treatment because there are no limits to his/her endurance, no end to his/her trust. Love bears up under anything; it perseveres in all circumstances. Love's first

instinct is to believe in people. If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best in him, and always stand your ground in defending him. Love never regards anyone or anything as hopeless. Love keeps up hope in everything. Love's hope never fades.

Love keeps on keeping on! It trusts in God in every situation and expects God to act in all circumstances. Love goes on forever. Nothing can destroy love. Nothing can happen that can break love's spirit. In fact, it is the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

Romans 12:9-21 - NLT

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. (10) Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. (11) Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. (12) Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. (13) When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. (14) Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. (15) Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. (16) Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! (17) Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. (18) Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. (19) Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. (20) Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." (21) Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Ephesians 4:1-3 - NLT

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. (2) Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. (3) Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Ephesians 4:22-5:2 - NLT

Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. (23) Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. (24) Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. (25) So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. (26) And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, (27) for anger gives a foothold to the devil. (28) If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. (29) Don't use foul or abusive

language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (30) And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. (31) Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. (32) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (1) Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. (2) Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

Philippians 1:10 -

That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

Sincere – Without wax

Philippians 2:1-4 - NKJV

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, (2) fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (3) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. (4) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Colossians 3:1-23 - NLT

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. (2) Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. (3) For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. (5) So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. (6) Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. (7) You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. (8) But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. (9) Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. (10) Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. (11) In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. (12) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (13) Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (14) Above all, clothe

yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. (15) And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. (16) Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. (17) And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. (18) Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. (19) Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. (20) Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. (21) Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged. (22) Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. (23) Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

1 Peter 3:8-17 - NLT

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. (9) Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. (10) For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. (11) Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. (12) The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil." (13) Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? (14) But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. (15) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. (16) But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. (17) Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!