

Three Things That Promote Love



Be Careful What You Seek

*Can a man love God while ignoring
the need of his brother?*

Frances J. Roberts

A. Disciples Seek Something *Mark 9:33-35*

1. In *Matt 7:7* Jesus says, “Seek and you shall find.” However, that does NOT mean that we should seek anything that is NOT part of God’s perfect will.
2. The disciples were discussing something that evidently they were all seeking—to be the greatest disciple.
3. Jesus’ view of greatness: Servant of all.

B. Three Attitudes that Promote Love

1. Love does not seek its own...

- This is the defining statement on ‘love’
- True love does not make his/her happiness, comfort and well being the most important thing in life
- Love is ONLY satisfied in the welfare of others
- Love seeks the things of God—God’s best for others
- What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is eternal. *Albert Pike (1809–1891)*

2. Love is not provoked...

- The word ‘easy’ is NOT in the original
- If love is provoked at all—it ceases to be love
- Love NEVER reacts in self-defense or retaliation
- The word ‘provoked’ means ‘to be angered’
- “Where the fire of love is kept, the flames of wrath will not be kindled” *Mathew Henry*
- Anger cannot be in the same heart where love is
- So what about Eph 4:26 ‘...be angry and sin not’?
- Like the Lord, Paul was only angered by the things that anger God, sometimes called ‘righteous indignation.’

3. Love does not think evil...

- Love believes no evil where no evil is
- Love never supposes (assumes) that a good action may have a bad motive
- The person under the influence of love does NOT find fault or attribute improper motives to others
- Love does NOT keep track of wrongs done
- Men are not against you; they are merely for themselves. *Gene Fowler (1890–1960)*

**There is no room for God in the man
who is full of himself.**

Jewish Proverb

Put on Love

But above all these things
put on love, which is the
bond of perfection. *Col 3:14*

1Co 12:31

But earnestly desire the best
gifts. And yet I show you
a more excellent way.

1 Cor 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the
tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love, I have become
sounding brass or a clanging
cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift
of prophecy*, and understand all
mysteries and all knowledge,
and though I have all faith, so
that I could remove mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my
goods to feed *the poor*, and
though I give my body to be
burned, but have not love, it
profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient [*long
suffering*] and is kind; love does
not envy; love does not parade
itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely,
does not seek its own, is not
provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity,
but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all
things, hopes all things, endures
all things.

8 Love never fails. But
whether *there are* prophecies,
they will fail; whether *there are*
tongues, they will cease;
whether *there is* knowledge, it
will vanish away.