

Parkwood Gardens' Values

“A Love for People”

“But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.”
- John 13:34,35

Jesus was compassionate and loving towards others. He is our model. Indeed, He said this would be the hallmark of all His disciples!

KEY: We must learn to build bridges of love that can bear the weight of truth.

Two observations:

1. We're to love others as Jesus loves us. (v. 34)
2. Our love for others shows our love for God. (v. 35)

Jesus demonstrated the following attitude:

1. Nothing to prove. *(He knew who He was!)*
2. Nothing to lose. *(He knew where He was going!)*
3. Nothing to hide. *(He knew what His mission was!)*

What Must We Do To Love As Jesus Loved?

The Apostle Paul said: (1 Corinthians 11:1)

“Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ!”

- Paul tells us how he followed Jesus in building bridges of love that can bear the weight of truth.
- Paul became a “neighbour” to a motley crew in the port town of Corinth. He gives us a model of loving others:

1. Paul Abandoned His Rights.

“When people question me, I tell them that Barnabas and I have the right to our food and drink. We each have the right to marry one of the Lord's followers and to take her along with us, just as the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Peter do.”
- 1 Corinthians 9:3-5

“When we told the message to you, it was like planting spiritual seed. So we have the right to accept material things as our harvest from you. If others have the right to do this, we have an even greater right. But we haven't used this right of ours. We are willing to put up with anything to keep from causing trouble for the message about Christ.”
- 1 Corinthians 9:11-12

2. Paul Accepted His Responsibilities.

“I don't have any reason to brag about preaching the good news. Preaching is something God told me to do, and if I don't do it, I am doomed. If I preach because I want to, it is still something that God has sent me to do.” - 1 Cor. 9:16-17

3. Paul Adopted the Role of a Servant.

“I am not anyone's slave. But I have become a slave (doulos: bond-servant) to everyone, so that I can win as many people as possible.” - 1 Corinthians 9:19

LOVE IS THE HIGHEST LAW!

4. Paul Adjusted Himself to Meet People's Needs.

“When I am with the Jews, I live like a Jew to win Jews. They are ruled by the Law of Moses, and I am not. But I live by the Law to win them. And when I am with people who are not ruled by the Law, I forget about the Law to win them. Of course, I never really forget about the law of God. In fact, I am ruled by the law of Christ. When I am with people whose faith is weak, I live as they do to win them. I do everything I can to win everyone I possibly can.” - 1 Corinthians 9:20-22

We must *adjust* and *adapt* in our lives and methods based upon ...

Need • Culture • Interests • Priorities • Hurts • Concerns

5. Paul Anticipated His Reward.

“You know that many runners enter a race, and only one of them wins the prize. So run this race to win the prize.” - 1 Corinthians 9:24

Personal Application:

- Do people know you are a Christian by your loving life?
- Who will you reach out to and build bridges of love that can bear the weight of truth.

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