

As I Have Loved You (Thy Will Be Done- 7)

Galatians 5:25-26 (The Passion Translation, TPT)

“If the Spirit is the source of our life, we must also allow the Spirit to direct every aspect of our lives. So may we never be arrogant, or look down on one another, for each of us in an original. We must forsake all jealousy that diminishes the value of others.”

A. It is not humanly possible to love as God commands in our own strength.

1. Loving the way God commands is not acceptance of ungodly behavior. We can walk in love and discern/ test what we accept in our lives. (1 John 4:1-2, AMP)
2. We are not able to properly discern, or love, when we are not in relationship with God; the Holy Spirit must be our guide to not be deceived or deceive ourselves. (James 1:22, 1:26, TPT) This can be easily missed when we are not sensitive to the Spirit. Walking in the flesh is easy, being aware of deceit (even from ourselves) comes from walking in faith, submission to God, and allowing the Holy Spirit to be involved in everything (not ignoring).
3. “We have a spirit of love, joy, and peace; we can draw on these.” (DL)
(Galatians 5:22-23, AMP)

We have the ability to continually remain walking in love, joy, and peace. With any decision we make we have the ability to choose how we respond or react to others. (Ephesians 5:15-16, TPT) This may not always be easy; at times, our flesh would rather respond negatively. (I am reminded by the unction of the Holy Spirit often that a soft answer turns away wrath, and that we are ALL God’s children; ALL are worthy of love.”) (Proverbs 15:1-2, TPT)

B. Love Sets Healthy Boundaries. (DL)

(Merriam-Webster, Definition of boundary. (noun) 1. (as in limit) A real or imaginary point beyond which a person or thing cannot go. 2. (as in perimeter) The line or relatively narrow space that marks the outer limit of something. Synonyms: barrier, termination, border, margin.)

1. Society pushes the acceptance of anything these days, but acceptance leads to sin and death! We are not only allowed to set strong, healthy boundaries, but boundaries are good for our spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. (John 2:23-25, AMP)
2. Healthy Boundaries are not only healthy for us, but this helps us maintain healthy relationships and friendships. Those who are truly our friends and family will

respectfully honor the boundaries we set, knowing this is done with our best interests in mind. (Proverbs 25:17, TPT)
(We can identify these people: John 13:34-35,ESV)

“If someone throws a fit because you set boundaries, it’s just more evidence the boundary is needed.” (Pinterest-Author Unknown)

3. We are given the fruit of the Spirit of self-control, this allows us to recognize and determine when boundaries are necessary to be held, or to be respected.
(Galatians 5:22-23, ESV) There was a boundary set by God to Adam and Eve, they did not respect this boundary, bringing forth sin and death! (Genesis 3:4-7, 3:13, ESV)

C. Speaking Uncomfortable Truths in Love.

1. When living in front of, or speaking to others, we must always live in spirit and speak in truth. (Colossians 3:16-17, TPT) (John 17:17-19, ESV) We are set apart, by Jesus Christ, speaking truth is not only honorable but also a commandment, (Deuteronomy 5:20, AMP)
2. Sugar coating things to make others feel accepted or correct in wrongdoing, is doing nothing but leading them into darkness; allowing them to continue the wrong path, ultimately, leading to hell. God’s truth is always for our eternal good and well-being; this is not always comfortable, gentle, or enjoyable. (Hebrews 4:12-13, AMP & TPT)
3. It is easy to point out sins of others, and even our own sins, but God is love, corrects in love, and forgives in love. Careful correction brings change, not condemnation, not belittling, and is not demeaning.

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:1-2, ESV)

“Little children (believers, dear ones), let us not love (merely in theory) with word or with tongue (giving lip service to compassion), but in action and in truth (in practice and in sincerity, because practical acts of love are more than words).”

(1 John 3:18, AMP)

KVJ- King James Version

ESV- English Standard Version

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