



Back to basics

Part 5: Standing in Love

Core text

Eph 4:15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church. Eph 4:16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (NLT)

1. Love

4 Types of love according to the Greek language:

“Storge” (Natural love): Kind of love you will find within a family.

“Eros” (Self fulfilling love) Love for the joy I get from it.

“Phileo” (Friendship love): The joy you get from the presence of others. 50/50 love relationship

“Agape” (Give 100% of yourself): to sacrifice. To give a 100%

2. God’s definition of love

Obedience

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. (KJV)

John 14:15 If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. (MSG)

Faith works through love

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any strength, but faith working through love. (MKJV)

Gal 5:6 For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. (NLT)

Faith is put into action through love. How can we trust God unless we are sure of His love for us?

Love and faith work hand in hand. A personal love walk with God breeds trust in God.



3. First love toward God

John 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. John 15:11 I have spoken these things to you so that My joy might remain in you and your joy might be full. John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:13 No one has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (MKJV)

"Friend" is a covenant word. Jesus declares "you are my friends if you obey me". As long as we do what God expects from us, we put His covenant in action.

4. Obedience in our relationship with others

God is a relationship person. In the same way we stand in a relationship with God, He expects us to stand in a relationship with others.

1John 4:20 If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar. For if he does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 1 John 4:21 And we have this commandment from Him, that he who loves God should love his brother also. (MKJV)

In order to showcase God's love, we have to learn to treat other people with love. True love is measured against our relationships with others.

John 13:35 By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another. (MKJV)

5. Stand in relationship with each other

God has called us to grow together in harmony. It is easy to say that you stand in relationship with others. How do I know that you stand in relationship with others?

The following are characteristics of a true relationship:

Test yourself against these characteristics...

1. Regular interaction
2. The duration of the relationship
3. Acknowledge each other's shortcomings and supplement it.
4. Share dreams and help each other to accomplish it.
5. Remove misunderstandings and unclear issues.



6. Search for the success of the other party and build on it. 1Sam 23:15 And David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a woods. 1Sa 23:16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David into the woods, and strengthened his hand in God. 1Sa 23:17 And he said to him, Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. And you shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. And my father Saul knows that also.
7. Stand in true forgiveness toward each other.
8. Don't ever under estimate the power of touch.
9. Carry each other's burdens.
10. Care for each another.

Stand in relationship with God, with each another and with the world.

Start by caring for each another. Start to stand in relationship with each another. Make a decision today – the 10 persons I am going to stand in relationship this year are:

Start living being a disciple... start by being church for each another. Fulfil your ministry....

Application:

Each Christian is part of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13 en 26-27)

Each member has a responsibility and task

As children of the Lord, we have the responsibility to care for each other, to love and care for each another and (Rom 8:14-17, Eph. 2:19, 1 Tim 3:15).

We have to create space in order to learn to know each other better and to care for each another.

Christ's love has to become a tangible and visible experience (John 13:34-35, Eph 4:2-3, 1 John 4:20-21)

Relationships grow with time and openness.

Focus on "each another" by: ("each another" orders)

- Love, admonish, patience, longsuffering, forgiveness, teaching, living together in (Col. 3:12-17)
- Carry each another's burdens (Gal 6:1-2)
- Encourage and help each other (1 Thess. 5:11)

Visie: Om mense te bemagtig om 'n impak in die gemeenskap te maak

BERGSIG Gemeenskapskerk



- Pray for each other (James 5:16)

Grow to maturity

We stay spiritual babes when we keep on receiving and never give out (Heb 5:12-14)

Spiritual maturity is achieved by reaching out and sharing what we have received.

This is not mere attending church, but also witnessing and serving with spiritual gifts.

Caring in Practice

Carry each other's burdens (Gal 6:2)

Command given by the Lord to his children to love one another

Assisting each other in heartache, death, difficult decisions, job loss, house watching, transporting children, etc

Spending time together and being there for each other

Establishing care groups:

Exercise space for spiritual life

Koinonia (communion) comes of its own

Basis for intercession

Doers of the Word

Defrosting of gifts

Conducive to spiritual growth

Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others – Danny Thomas

We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own. Ben Sweetland.

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up. – John Andrew Holmes

The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer somebody else up – Mark Twain