

Bible Study Handout

1 Corinthians 13:5 – Love Does Not Seek Its Own

Key Scripture

1 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)

“Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.”

Lesson Objective

To understand the characteristics of godly love and learn how to apply them in our relationships with God and others.

Introduction

First Corinthians 13 is often called the “Love Chapter.” Paul teaches that spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities are meaningless without love. In verse 5, he describes four important qualities of genuine Christian love.

Love is not merely an emotion; it is a decision to act according to God’s character.

I. Love Does Not Behave Itself Unseemly

Meaning

Love acts in a manner that is honorable, respectful, and appropriate.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Colossians 4:6** – “Let your speech be always with grace.”
- **Ephesians 4:29** – Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth.
- **Philippians 1:27** – Conduct yourselves worthy of the gospel.

Discussion Questions

1. What behaviors are considered “unseemly” for a Christian?
2. How can believers demonstrate respect in difficult situations?

Application

Godly love treats people with dignity even when disagreements arise.

II. Love Does Not Seek Its Own

Meaning

Love is not selfish. It does not constantly ask, "What's in it for me?"

Supporting Scriptures

- **Philippians 2:3-4** – Esteem others better than yourselves.
- **Romans 12:10** – Prefer one another in honor.
- **Mark 10:45** – Jesus came to serve, not to be served.

Biblical Example

Jesus washed the disciples' feet (**John 13:1-17**), demonstrating servant-hearted love.

Discussion Questions

1. How does selfishness damage relationships?
2. What are practical ways to put others first?

Application

Love sacrifices personal comfort for the good of others.

III. Love Is Not Easily Provoked

Meaning

Love is not quick-tempered or easily offended.

Supporting Scriptures

- **James 1:19-20** – Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
- **Proverbs 15:1** – A soft answer turns away wrath.
- **Ecclesiastes 7:9** – Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry.

Discussion Questions

1. What causes people to become easily provoked?
2. How can we develop patience through the Holy Spirit?

Application

Love gives grace instead of reacting in anger.

IV. Love Thinketh No Evil

Meaning

Love does not keep a record of wrongs. It refuses to assume the worst about others.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Ephesians 4:31-32** – Be kind and forgiving.
- **Matthew 6:14-15** – Forgive others.
- **Proverbs 17:9** – Love covers offenses.

Biblical Example

Joseph forgave his brothers despite their betrayal (**Genesis 50:20-21**).

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it difficult to let go of offenses?
2. What happens when we keep a record of wrongs?

Application

Love chooses forgiveness over bitterness.

Self-Examination

Ask yourself:

- Do I treat others respectfully?
- Am I selfish or servant-minded?
- Am I easily offended?
- Am I holding grudges?
- Do my actions reflect the love of Christ?

Supporting Scripture

Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart.”

Key Takeaways

1. Love behaves properly.
2. Love is unselfish.
3. Love is patient and not easily angered.
4. Love forgives and does not keep score.

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)

"Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil."

Closing Challenge

Before the next Bible study, identify one relationship in which you can intentionally demonstrate Christ-like love by showing respect, putting someone else first, controlling your temper, or extending forgiveness. Love is not just something we say—it is something we do.