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The More Excellent Way

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The More Excellent Way # 62

Imp. Question: ^{If you} listed characteristics of the congregation you would want most to be in, what be on your list? (1)

I suppose: 5 things W P O M G with only one in town!

1. Preacher - lausers; preacher ^{3 above Jesus.} & followers. Ch. 1.
2. Immorality running free. members laughed. Ch. 5. How long stay?
3. Lawsuits to settle differences. Ch. 6. Spectacle to the world.
4. Drunkenness rampant, even in the worship services. Ch. 11.
5. Jealousy + envy for places of most honor throughout the membership. Ch. 12. More problems.

If had a choice, how long stay in this Corinthian church?

note: Paul told none to leave it, but all to copy it! I Cor. 12: 27-31.

Conclusion: told them what to do and How to do it.

II their Greatest Need Was Love. I Cor. 13:

A. not silver-tongued professionals. II. 1. 1, 2 / 6 human languages + dialects.

B. Positive Qualities. (4)

1. Rejoices in truth. ~~Error~~ is painful.
2. Believes all things. Wants to trust.
3. Hopes all things. Risks trusting others.
4. Love is kind. Spirit of family members. Close.

C. Negative Qualities. (9)

1. Not envious. Not jealous. Not resentful.
2. Vaunteth not itself. ^{not} Boastful - braggart.
3. Not puffed up. Swelled with own imp.
4. Not unseemly. Not shamefully. *Rom. 12:9-10.
5. Seeks not his own.
6. Not easily provoked. Slow to anger. Ill. water st. mission in N. Y. city. "not welcome here if welcome anywhere else!" James 1:19
7. Thinks no evil. Does not keep record of WHO all abuses him, not How much.
8. Rejoices not in iniquity. Not even if to one's own advantage. Only in truth!
9. Never fails. Never "reduced to inactivity". Nothing caused Jesus to quit! Like God's endless love.

Inv. Best illustration of God's love? Prodigal son. ^{expresses def. of love in every way!}
Son 1. Deserved nothing.
Son 2. Got everything! Grace.

Grace permits B-R-C-B. and R-P.

3. If lectured on "the way to take advantage of fellow-man, what value?"

B. Not self-centered and selfish intellectuals. V. 2. Brilliant, knowledgeable photographic-mind, but detestable! NOTHING

C. Not a show-off Benefactor, not heartless Champion of the underprivileged

1. atheist, Varini of Paris, burned at the stake on Feb. 19, 1619. WHO? put him on back? and for WHAT for? II Thess. 1:7-9.

III. What is Love, of which Paul speaks?

A. Radio soap-operas: Powerful magnetic attraction.

B. Magazines: Swelling personal-sentiment.

C. Movies: Excitement of human passion.

D. Newspaper: Gratifying of physical lust. "Love-burglar" - rapist! animal!

E. Bible:

- 1. Supplying the NEEDS of others. John 3:16.
- 2. obeying the wishes of another, I J. 5:3.

IV. Let Paul define Genuine Love,

- A. Passive qualities. (3)
 - 1. Suffers long. V. 4. Patience.
 - 2. Bearerth all things. V. 7. Protects by covering. HEN. of Rain!
 - 3. Endures all things. V. 7. "suffering does not make one weak."