



RCC Phoenix – 8.9.20 – (Love Series: Week 6) Love Cares

Today we're going to look at love and the role it plays in _____.

The Gospel story is _____ about us. It is about _____.

Our goal as disciples of Christ is not to live as the _____ of our own life movie, but to play a _____ role in the eternal story of Almighty God.

1 Peter 5:5-7 NASB

"...and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, *casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*"

God _____ for you.

The false gods from other religions are _____ and demand compliance. They are not personal nor do they care for the needs of their followers. These are religions based on _____ and not a loving, caring relationship with God of the Universe.

The Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament:

The thought here contrasts the living and true God with the dumb idol gods of paganism who had no feeling, concern, or interest of any kind whatever in their worshipers. Even those pagan gods and goddesses which were supposed to be more glorious were always represented as being far off from their devotees, and as *having no care whatever* for them. It is one of the most glorious teachings of the Bible that God, yes, even the Almighty God, loves his children, is concerned and interested in their welfare; and his eyes are always upon his beloved.

Psalms 40:16-17 NKJV

"Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; *Yet the LORD thinks upon me.* You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God."

As a believer in Christ please remember that:

- God _____ you.
- God _____ where you are.
- God _____ the situation you're in right now.
- God _____ about you.

God _____ and _____ for you.

1. Love Does Not _____: (Perpereuomai)

Perpereuomai Definition:

- a self display, employing rhetorical embellishments in enthusiastically praising one's self excessively

Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

When we boast, we “self display” in an effort to take _____ for God’s grace to us.

When we display rhetorical embellishments, we are being _____ about our own strength and abilities.

When we praise ourselves excessively, we wander into the area of self-worship which is _____.

If we boast, we do 2 things:

- A. We actually _____ God’s love and care for us.
- B. We become _____ to the love and care others need.

God created us. He is the Master Designer. Therefore, He gets all the credit and glory.

The Bible actually gives God’s children something to boast about.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 HCSB

“This is what the Lord says: The wise man must not boast in his wisdom; the strong man must not boast in his strength; the wealthy man must not boast in his wealth. *But the one who boasts should boast in this, that he understands and knows Me* — that I am Yahweh, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things. This is the Lord’s declaration.”

When we boast about God we are telling others that we are incapable of saving ourselves and that God shows love and care for everyone who believes in Christ.

2. Love is Not _____: (Phusioo)

Phusioo Definition:

- to inflate, blow up, to puff up, make proud, to carry one's self in elevated regard, be proud

Isaiah 14:12-14 NASB

“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”

Many scholars see this Scripture as a parallel reference to Nebuchadnezzar and Lucifer (Satan).

_____ pride is rooted in evil.

Pride seeks to:

- _____ itself and minimize others.
- _____ itself as more important than others.
- _____ itself above showcasing others.
- _____ itself above caring for others.

Now let's look at the heart of our Savior.

John 13:12-17 NLT

"After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."

The arrogant are striving to be the top, to unseat the ruling power and to _____ their own status among creation.

But Jesus is kneeling on a dirty floor, washing the filthy feet of the very people He created, showing them true _____ by serving.

If God's heart is growing in me, my level of care for others will _____ increase through the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Love Does Not _____ on Its Own Way: (Zeteo)

Zeteo Definition:

- to require, crave, demand something from someone

Matthew 16:24 NLT

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "*If any of you wants* to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."

Notice that Jesus is not _____ compliance.

Matthew 26:36-39 NLT

"Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. *Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*"

Jesus gives the highest example of this love characteristic by not pushing to get His own way on Earth. He loves and cares so much for the future of humanity, He refuses to insist on His own way and does what is best for us.

Humility is not thinking _____ of yourself, it's thinking of _____ less.

Galatians 5:22-24 HCSB

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Not insisting on our own way is a literal expression of crucifying “...the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Leadership Principle:

Allow others to accomplish the task we have given them by not forcing them to do it our way.

Eternal Principle:

Care for others so much that I will lay down demanding my own way.

Romans 9:1-3 NLT

“With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. *I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.*”

Do we love and care for others to the extent that we would endure someone taking _____ of us if it meant they would see the true Gospel and become a believer in Christ?

What would our marriages, friendships, parent / child relationships, family relationships, professional relationships & relationships to people we don't know look like, if we cared for others with the same love God cares for us?

Why consider these things? Because Love _____.