

**DISCIPLESHIP 1  
IDENTIFICATION  
SERIES**

**LESSON 6  
UNIT II  
DEVELOPING GODLY HABITS - PARTS 1 AND 2  
GODLY THINKING  
WALKING IN LOVE**

For  
**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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**COMPILED BY**

**EDWIN M. GREGORIO**

**Contact: Academic Dean  
e-mail: [emgregorio@yahoo.com](mailto:emgregorio@yahoo.com)**

**Reference from:**

**Hearing of Faith Bible Institute  
P.O. Box 372  
Axtell, Texas 76624**

**DEVELOPING GODLY HABITS - PART 1 – GODLY THINKING**

The **NEXT STEP** in the putting on of the new man **IS developing good, godly "THINKING HABITS", thinking patterns.**

The Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:8 says, "**...think on these things.**"

**THINGS WHICH ARE:**

- **true** - instead of lies, things false, deceptions of Satan
- **honest** - instead of using people, getting something for nothing, stealing
- **just** - instead of judgmental , unfair
- **pure** - instead of impure things thoughts of sexual lust
- **lovely** - instead of the bad things of days gone by, ugliness of the world and it's ways
- **of good report** - instead of the bad things going on around us, people's faults
- **things having virtue** (goodness & worth) - instead of worthless, useless, self gratifying things
- **praise worthy** - instead of things in people to condemn or complain about

**2 Corinthians 10:5 says, "... bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."**

Simply this means that every thought which comes into your mind which would NOT be a thought Jesus would think on, you are to get rid of it. **If Jesus would not think on it, then, you are not to think on it.**

You are to **REPLACE** all bad thoughts (thoughts Jesus would not think on) with these **GOOD THOUGHTS**. In this way you are developing godly though habits and thought patterns - which is putting on the new man.

**DEVELOPING GODLY HABITS - PART 2 WALKING IN LOVE**

The **NEXT STEP** in the putting on of the new man is that of **developing good godly habits of DOING TO REPLACE** the bad, sin habits of the old man we are putting off.

Paul in Ephesians chapter 5, equates this developing, putting on of godly habits of doing as **WALKING**

- **walking in love** (verse 2)
- **walking as children of light** (verse 8)
- **walking circumspectly** (verse 15)

**Walking in LOVE** then, is to be, the **FIRST** godly habit that you and I as children of God are to develop and exercise. It is worthy to note that in Galatians 5:22, that the **first fruit of the spirit is LOVE.**

The nature and character of God, and therefore, of God's children can be summarized in **LOVE.**

In Romans 13:8-10 Paul says in verse 8 that we have a **debt of love** toward one another. And in verses 8 and 10 he says that **loving one another is the fulfilling of the Law.**

And in John 13:34, Jesus says to us,

**"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."**

We are to **LOVE, develop** a habit of loving one another that is like the love with **which Jesus has loved and does love us. WHOA!!!** That is a big order, **BUT IMPOSSIBLE? NO!** If it were impossible then we would not have been told by **Jesus** to do it.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE AS JESUS LOVED US?**

In Ephesians 4:32 we have in a nut shell a picture of what it means to love as Jesus loved.

**"Be ye therefore. followers (imitators) of God as dear children; And WALK IN LOVE."**

In this verse the **"be ye therefore"** refers back to chapter 4:32 which says, **"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.~**

Therefore being:

- **kind to one another,**
- **being tender hearted toward one another,**
- **FORGIVING one another as God has forgiven us**

**IS WALKING IN LOVE.**

We will now analyze these three elements, or three phases which summarizes the love with which Jesus loved us and therefore the love with which we are to **love one another**.

**THE FIRST ELEMENT OF GODLY LOVE ACCORDING TO EPHESIANS 4:32 IS "BE YE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER."**

- Being **KIND** means according to the Greek word here translated "kind" is to be **serviceable**. Serviceable according to Websters Dictionary means, 1. that can be of service; ready for use; useful; usable; 2. that will give good service; durable service; 3. willing to serve; attentive and obliging.
- To have the heart of a servant, Galatians 6:13 says, "**...to serve one another by love.**" We are to be usable - a slave - for one another. **So to love is first of all to be servant to one another looking for a opportunity to serve.**

In Philippians 2:7 we see that Jesus who is the God of gods, equal in all ways to the Father, ". . . took upon Himself the **FORM of a servant . . .**"

The word "form" in this verse is the Greek word *morphe*, meaning that the form taken was actually the true nature or essence of whatever . . . Thus the true nature of Jesus, and therefore of God is that of a servant. A nature of being kind, being serviceable.

Since, you and I through the new birth have the nature of God, **OUR TRUE NATURE THEN IS THAT OF A SERVANT**. Thus we are according to our new nature serviceable.

**We, therefore, need to develop this quality of being kind to one another because it is a part of our new nature. That's who we are.**

We do this by actually serving one another's need. Not just serving those who deserve to be served, or those who will and do serve us - BUT we are to exercise grace and serve the ones who do not deserve to be served. We are not to reserve the right to pick and choose whom we are to serve.

**THE SECOND ELEMENT OF LOVE IS, "BE YE TENDERHEARTED."**

The Greek word in Ephesians 4:32, which is translated tenderhearted comes from the same root word, which in other passages of Scripture is rendered "**compassion**". Compassion is a description of feelings which comes from deep within a person which moves that person to action.

Thus to be tenderhearted towards one another means to have deep feelings of compassion which will move us with a sense of urgency to help our brothers and sisters who are in a needful situation. It is to be tender toward one another. Being sensitive to each others needs.

From the life of Jesus we see **three areas of need in which we are to have compassion.**

**1. Matthew 9:36 says of Jesus, "But when He saw the multitudes. He was MOVED WITH COMPASSION on them, because they fainted, and were SCATTERED having NO SHEPHERD."**

Therefore, to love as Jesus loved is to have a burden, to be moved with compassion for those who are spiritually weak and scattered and floundering having no shepherd to guide them and to feed them. They need to be reconciled to their Father and we are to be those ministers of reconciliation.

**2. Matthew 14:14, "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was MOVED WITH COMPASSION toward them, and He HEALED THEIR SICK."**

Our Father God wants to give us a burden for those who are sick, He wants us to be moved with compassion for them. To visit the sick, encourage them, to lay hands on them and pray for their healing. To do whatever we can to give them relief and help. This is **loving as Jesus loved us.**

**3. Matthew 15:32, "Then Jesus called his disciples unto Him, and said, I HAVE COMPASSION on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to EAT; and I will not send them away fasting. lest they faint in the way."**

We are to be concerned about the physical needs of our brothers and sisters. We are to have compassion for them and be moved with an urgency to help them in their physical needs of food, shelter and clothing. To love them as Jesus loves is to do all that we can to help them,

James 2:15-16, "**If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto than. Depart in peace, be ye warned and filled; notwithstanding ye give than not those things which are needful to the body; WHAT DOTH IT PROFIT.**"

Loving them is to help them- we are not loving them when we sympathize with them and then say to them, "God will provide"; "God bless you." **WE ARE TO BE TENDERHEARTED TOWARD ONE ANOTHER.**

**THE THIRD ELEMENT OF LOVING AS JESUS LOVED US, WHICH WE ARE TO WALK IN, IS THAT OF FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER.**

The literal translation of Ephesians 4:32 where it says "forgiving one another" is not "forgiving one another" but rather, "**forgiving yourselves.**"

**We see from this translation three areas of forgiveness.**

1. We are to **forgive ourselves.** That is we are to consciously pronounce upon ourselves that we are forgiven of all our sins. past, present and future. That in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. If you have not done this, you will not be able to be a minister of reconciliation and forgive others.
2. When one of our brothers or sisters is being weighted down by the burden of sin and guilt we are to be ministers of reconciliation and pronounce upon **them the forgiveness of their sins.** This pronouncing upon our brothers and sisters that their sins are forgiven is part of the great commission which Jesus gave to us in John 20:21-23.
3. You, yourselves are to forgive those brothers and sisters who have wronged, sinned against you. It does not matter what they have done to you, how badly they may have treated you. To love as Jesus loved constrains you to forgive them. And secondly, if you do not forgive them bitterness will be structured in you soul which will result in

separating you from fellowship with your Father God. And very likely will result in sickness in your body.

**To forgive means** that you will put whatever you are forgiving them of **BEHIND YOU**, and that you will **NOT LOOK UPON IT EVER AGAIN**. It means that you will not **ALLOW** this thing that they have done in any way to **INFLUENCE YOUR RELATIONSHIP** with them.

**To forgive as God has forgiven you is to act toward that person as if the wrong which they committed, NEVER HAPPENED.**

**WALKING IN LOVE THEN, IS TO BE, THE FIRST GODLY HABIT THAT YOU ARE TO DEVELOP AND EXERCISE.**

**END of IDENTIFICATION Series**

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