

February 20-26, 2010
BUILDING QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS – Part 1

In this lesson you will learn about the four kinds of love expressed in the Greek language, the characteristics of the God-kind of love, and how this kind of love can improve all of your relationships.

- I. “Love” – the foundation of all relationships.
 - A. 1 John 3:16 NIV – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.”
 - B. 1 John 3:18 TLB – “Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.”
 - C. Jesus demonstrated who He was through love. He wasn’t concerned with “titles,” although He was called “Master, Teacher, and Rabbi.”

- II. Philippians 2:5-8 – Describes the characteristics of the mind of Christ.
 - A. Some of these characteristics include authority, humility, love, concern, care, a servant’s heart, dependency upon God, and obedience to God.
 - B. We are known by our fruit – a life totally surrendered and submitted to Jesus Christ.

- III. Four kinds of love expressed in the Greek language.
 - A. *Eros* – Love based on the five physical senses.
 - B. *Storge* – Strong devotion to one another, particularly in families.
 - C. *Phileo* – Brotherly love. The city of brotherly love, Philadelphia, came from this word.
 - D. *Agape* – The highest kind of love, the God-kind, that sacrifices itself for the benefit of others.

- IV. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 – Describes the God-kind of Love, *agape*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Of the four kinds of love, which one dominates most of your relationships?
- Do you have a strategy for maturing in the God-kind of love?
- Do you have an accountability partner to hold you responsible for your love walk?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

As you read and meditate on the characteristics of the God-kind of love in First Corinthians 13:4-8, examine your own heart and ask yourself if you walk in these characteristics of love.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE: 1 John 3:18 TLB – “Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.”