

The Power of Love's Virtue (It's Your Birthright)

The Power of Love

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I. New Series: First Love, True Love, Best Love

A. Revelation 2: 4(AV) ⁴ *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

B. Subject: The Value of Love (Paying The Cost; Heart; Mind, Will)

II. Text

A. 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (AV)⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

B. Bible Study Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Galatians 5:16-26

III. Subject: The Power of Love's Virtue (It's Your Birthright)

A. This three-part series we're doing is based on the 13th chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians; which is known as the Love chapter in the Bible.

1. As we stated before, it doesn't define love, it demonstrates it.

2. In the first part, we demonstrated the Value of Love from three perspectives;

a. Emotional Power of Love (Talk is cheap without love)

b. Thoughtful Power of Love (Knowledge is useless without love)

c. Willful Power of Love (Actions are nothing without love)

B. So Last week we looked the Value of Love, next week we will look at the Victory of Love, but today we will look at and demonstrated the Virtue of Love

1. Love's Virtue is necessary when dealing with people who try you, people who irk you, people who bother, disturb, frustrate and anger you!

2. And yet you're got to love them.

3. ***I wonder what the first argument must have been like when Adam stated to get on Eve's nerves in the Garden of Eden (VIDEO)!***

4. Virtue is moral excellence, goodness, righteousness; when one conforms and conducts their life based on moral and ethical principles.

5. Now the Virtue of a thing is its Prerogative, its right, privilege, or birthright!

6. You've perhaps heard the term "Patience is a Virtue"; Patience is one of nine virtues contained in the "Fruit of the Spirit" that is produced by the Holy Spirit.

7. Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

8. So when we receive the Holy Spirit, these are the virtues that come along with it!

9. Or put another way, when we are born again, these 9 virtues become our birthright!

C. Unfortunately, too many people sell their birthright and missing out on their blessing

1. Genesis 25:29–34 (AV)²⁹ And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he *was* faint: ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red *pottage*; ***for I am faint***: therefore was his name called Edom. ³¹ And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. ³² And Esau said, Behold, ***I am at the point to die***: and ***what profit shall this birthright*** do to me? ³³ And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau ***despised his birthright***.

2. The Process of Selling our Virtue:

a. Faint: We become weary and tired

b. Point of Death: We think our situation is worse than it really is

c. What Profit: We devalue what we have

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d. Despised: We scorn and hate the very thing that was our birthright

3. When we are weak, the enemy will magnify our situations; and then offer us a cheap temporary fix in return for our permanent birthright.
4. He will magnify our haters and cause us sell our virtue for bitterness; magnify our suffering & trouble and cause us to sell our joy & peace for anxiety & depression
5. He will magnify our disappointments & struggles and cause us to sell our longsuffering & faithfulness for Weariness, Envy, and Pride.
6. Never make a permanent decision based on a temporary situation.

D. Today we must be determined to live a life based on the Permanent Virtues of Love, and not sell our birthright for the Temporary Failings of Lust!

E. Subject: The Power of Love's Virtue (It's Your Birthright)

1. "Don't sell your Permanent Birthright for a Temporary Fix"

IV. The Birthright of Brotherly Virtue (Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness)

A. 1 Corinthians 13: ⁴Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

B. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit produces a Birthright of Brotherly Virtue, which includes Patience/Longsuffering, Gentleness/Kindness, and Goodness or Contentment.

C. Don't let people cause you to sell your birthright:

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NLT)⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous...
2. The brotherly virtue of love is that it "suffers long": it's is patient, kind, and good!
3. But the very people we are called to love can cause us to sell our virtue and cause us to become bitter, spiteful, and hateful.
4. Jacob and Esau were brothers, but Jacob's envy and jealousy ultimately caused Esau to despise and hate his birthright.
5. John 8:44 (AV)⁴⁴ **Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**
6. Psalm 69:4 (AV)⁴ They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.
7. Psalm 41:9 (AV)⁹ Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.
8. The wickedness, hatred, and betrayal of people can cause you sell your birthright.

D. Don't Sell Your Virtue, People are Only Temporary

1. Betrayal is temporary, Hatred is temporary, Wickedness is temporary; Shake it off!
2. In the words of Taylor Swift: Players gonna play, play, play; and the haters gonna hate, hate, hate; But baby I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake; Shake it off
3. Let the players play and just shake it off:
 - a. Hebrews 13:5 (AV)⁵ ... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
4. Let the haters hate and just shake it off:
 - a. 1 John 4:10 (AV)¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, ...
5. Revelation 12:11 (AV)¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

E. "Don't Sell Your Brotherly Virtue, Just Shake People Off!"

V. The Birthright of Self Virtue (Faith, Meekness, and Temperance)

- A. 1 Corinthians 13: ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
- B. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit also produces a Birthright of Self Virtue, which includes Faith/Faithfulness, Meekness/Gentleness, and Temperance/Self-Control.
- C. Don't let your flesh cause you to sell your birthright:
1. 1 Corinthians 13:4–5 (NLT)⁴ ...Love is not boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.
 2. The Self Virtue of Love is that it is that it is immersed in humility: It does not boast, and it is not prideful or selfish. It is not provoked by evil.
 3. When a person is weak or faint, their judgment and choices are compromised.
 4. In our lesson text, because Esau was faint, his judgment was impaired to the point that he made poor choices.
 5. Genesis 25: ³² And Esau said, Behold, I *am* at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?
 6. The Holy Spirit produces Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control, but when we are weak, our impaired judgment will devalue our virtue, and we will sell it.
 7. What's the use and being faithful when they aren't going to recognize or promote us anyway! What's the use in nice, when they are so mean and hateful! Why bother being good, when it looks like evil will prevail any way!
- D. "Don't Sell Your Virtue, It's Worth More Than You Know"
1. Psalm 73:1–3 (AV)¹ Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart. ² But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. ³ For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
 2. Psalm 37:1–5 (AV)¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. ⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵ Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.
- E. "Don't Sell Your Self Virtue, It's Worth More Than You Know!"

VI. The Birthright of Godly Virtue (Love, Joy, Peace)

- A. 1 Corinthians 13: ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- B. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit produces a Birthright of Godly Virtue, which includes Love, Joy, and Peace.
- C. Don't let the Devil cause you to sell your birthright
1. 1 Corinthians 13:6–7 (NLT)⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
 2. Our Birthright is Love, but the enemy wants us to hate! Our birthright is Joy, but he want's us depress! Our birthright is Peace, but all we see is trouble!
 3. Romans 7:21 (AV)²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.
- D. Don't Sell Your Virtue, Overcome Your Evil with God's Good
1. Esau was overcome with Evil, and he sold his Birthright of Good!
 2. Romans 12:21 (AV)²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
 3. Don't let the Evil of this world overcome the Goodness of God!

4. People may hate you without a cause! But Love conquers a multitude of evil.
 5. Life may disappoint us over & over again! But the Joy of the lord is your strength.
 6. We may be troubled on every side! But the Peace of God that passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds.
- E. I should hate you, but I'm Overcome with the Love of God; I should be depressed, but I'm overcome with the Joy of the Lord; I should be stressed but God's peace keeps me!
- F. Don't let people cause you to sell your Virtue, People are Temporary, But God is forever.
- G. Don't let weariness cause you to sell your Virtue, It's worth more than you know.
- H. Don't let evil cause you to sell your Virtue, Overcome your Evil with God's Good!