

SCCC - GROWING UP

S - Scriptures

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.” I Corinthians 13: 4

C – Consideration

Chapter thirteen of the first letter to the Corinthians is one of the most quoted Scriptures in the world, even among pagans and unbelievers. The subject is love. It shows the contrast of what is done by human instinct and by true love, as defined in Greek as Agape. It is the unconditional love, the love of God. Paul is challenging the believers in that city who became arrogant concerning the spiritual gifts they had received, and some “good deeds” they had done. The Apostle summarized that spiritual gifts without love are just empty words, it shows mediocrity, and it gives nothing. Then, he showed a list of characteristics to recognize true love, distinctive from their sinful behavior like envy, pride, bitterness, unforgiveness, and rage. The virtues of Agape are truth, hope, perseverance, trust, and faithfulness. These qualities should be among those who truthfully show divine love. He concluded that gifts are temporary, but love will never fail, it is the greatest virtue of all, and will remain forever.

C – Commitment

It is challenging for any Christian when we sincerely consider these confronting instructions. My old nature is everything that opposes love. Like a proud Pharisee, my ego delights in praises of people, rejoices in revenge, in self ambition, and seeks to be the first among others. According to the Scriptures, I should get rid of these evil behaviors. I have to crucify and put to death the old man. After doing that, then, it will be possible to show Christ’s nature through me. According to the Bible, God had already poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. Why, then, if His love is in my heart, the Corinthians Christians and I, can keep such behaviors? One of the reasons is the lack of spiritual growth. He called them, babies in Christ and Paul, mentioned in the chapter that he had grown up, “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.” He exhorted them in the next chapter to “stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.” In conclusion, to perform truly good deeds, to be somebody, to get my crown in eternity, I must deny myself and allow God’s love to flow from me.

C – Call

My God, forgive me for neglecting to show Your love in a chaotic world with in such need for it. Forgive me for disregarding Jesus’ commands to love my brethren as He had loved me. Forgive me for ignoring the Lord’s instructions to love my enemies, instead of keeping a grudge in my heart. Help me, my Father to grow in wisdom, to remove these iniquities from my soul, and to reflect Christ to everyone You bring to me. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.