

**Intro:**

WLC Q&A 144: “a charitable esteem ...” through “... discouraging tale bearers ... slanderers”

Main Point of Text: Love is self-restraint and self-denial to last long enough to support and serve the growth of others.

Sermon Point: *Love is friendly.*

**Move 1: *Love grieves and covers its ears when unfriendly mouths pour out hatred on others.***

- LC: “sorrowing for ... their infirmities”. 2 Cor. 2:4: *For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.*
- LC: “and covering of their infirmities”: *He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.* (Pro 17:9).
  - 1 Pet. 4:8: *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*

Thus, other than: LC: “defending their innocency”, Love is:

- LC: “discouraging”: play down, put out, slow down, stand down, turn away:
  - “tale-bearers”: Prov. 25:23: *The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.*
  - “flatterers”: Prov 26:24-25: *He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.*
  - “slanderers”: Ps. 101:5: *Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off ...*
- LC: “and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them” Ps. 15:3, a man with God: *... backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.*

**Move 2: *Love rejoices to open its mouth and heap up friendly praises upon others.***

LC: “a ready receiving of a good report”. 1 Cor. 13:6-7 (below). Its effect is LC: “loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name”. Affirming their reflection of the image of Christ:

- *... I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.* (Rom. 1:8)
- 2 John 4; 3 John 1:3-4: John shares his joy in Christians walking in the truth, which knows from others. Great way to do this. LC: “freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces”:
  - *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you ...* (1 Cor. 1:4-7)
  - *I thank God ... When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee ... also.* (2 Tim. 1:3-5)

**Move 3: Love has a good attitude toward other people, especially the people of God.**

LC: “a charitable esteem of our neighbours”: friendly disposition”. 1 Cor. 13:4-8a:

- Love denies *self*. Notice, 8 “love me nots”. Love is not, Vs. 4 zealous for self, a braggart, arrogant. Love does not:
  - Vs. 5: act disgracefully, seek itself, get worked up, reckon (keep account of) the bad
  - Vs. 6: rejoice about unrighteousness. Overlooks offenses, and in contrast,
- Love focuses on others. Notice all the outward acts, other-centered. Love is, Vs. 4: patient (forbears), kind (merciful). Love also does:
  - Vs. 6: rejoice with the truth. Chooses to look for things to praise. Accentuates the positive.
  - Vs. 7: endures (covers over, passes over, like Christ our Passover); believes (the best), hopes (the best), endures (ὑπομένει, bears under, carries with patience). In each case, “ALL THINGS”.
  - Vs. 8a: never falls away (drifts off course).
  - *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (Phil. 2:6-7)*
- E. Renner, connect the dots of love and see Jesus: 1 Pet. 2:21-23; Heb. 12:3-4. Result of His service:
  - *Henceforth I call you not servants ... but I have called you friends ... (John 15:15)*
  - *... Abraham believed God ... and he was called the Friend of God. (James 2:23)*
  - 1 John 4:10-11: *... Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*

**Conclusion:**

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)*

*A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (Prov. 17:17)*

Ps. 122:8-9: *For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.*

**Love is friendly.**