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**I hope you thought about agape love this Lord's Day!**

I pray our God and Father would help every one of us as His children to have this God-Given, Christ-Like Love within, and that it would come forth from our lives, unto His glory!

Oh, how I have (SO OFTEN) often failed miserably in loving you with agape love; loving my family and my neighbor with agape love; but my heart's desire and my "want to" is to live and love with this agape love, and not just to talk about it and preach about it! Help us with your grace Lord!

When you and I attempt to live the Christian life without agape love, we UN-Christian, Christianity, and make it powerless!

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**This morning: Charity or Agape Love is NOT easily provoked!**

If you're someone who is "easily provoked to anger" EVERYONE around you knows it...but do you know it? Agape love is NOT easily provoked or irritated; agape love is NOT quick to anger or instantly exasperated.

The fruit of this God-Given agape love should be (ought to be) that you are not easily provoked to anger or ill-will toward others, INSTEAD, you're long-spirited, patient, kind, and forbearing! Ephesians 4:1-2

(Ex. David-Saul; David-Nabal)

Beloved, the more you "immerse and whelm yourself" in God's Holy and Sanctifying Word, the more of God's grace will be upon you so that you will be PREPARED and READY and ENABLED with agape love when you are unexpectedly hit with a sidewind & tempted to be easily provoked to anger or ill-will toward others.

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**"Charity or Agape Love thinketh no evil"**

This virtue or characteristic of agape love is directly linked to "not being easily provoked to anger". Agape love (IN YOU) will cause you to think the best of others, (of your brethren, your neighbors, and strangers), and to NOT be harsh, judgmental, or critical in your spirit; always thinking the worst of others. Job's 3 friends, Eli; those that accused the apostles of being drunk.

How often do we IMMEDIATELY think evil of someone for reasons which we do not know to be true, because of something that "we heard about them" or because of something that "we perceive" about them? Are you springloaded and quick to think evil of others? Or does agape cause you to think like we read in Philippians 4:8-9? And then consider:

Genesis 6:5, Psalm 10:3-4, Matthew 9:1-4

Proverbs 12:5, 16:3

**1 Corinthians 13:6: "Rejoiceth NOT in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth!"**

Here's what it all comes down to, where is your heart? What do you rejoice in? In the world and in its pleasures? Or do you find your joy and your rejoicing in Christ and in the love of Christ, in this beautiful agape love?

Sin and iniquity are CONTRARY to God's love; diametrically opposed to this Christ-Like "agape love"! Agape love cannot find joy, nor will it rejoice in sin and wickedness and ill-will toward others!

1 Samuel 23:19-21, 2 Samuel 4:7-12, Proverbs 24:17-18, Romans 12:9, 1:32, Mark 14:10-11

Agape love does not, CANNOT rejoice in iniquity; agape love weeps for the iniquities of others and grieves when men and women GLORY and REJOICE in their sin and iniquities! Agape never rejoices or take pleasure in that which is abhorrent to God!

I've seen parents laugh at the sins of their little children, thinking it's so cute!

Christian, YOU must never rejoice in the iniquities and sins and wrongdoings of any; if you do, you are a walking contradiction and a disgrace to the Name and Person of Christ!

You might say, well, that's just the way I am...well, that's not how agape love manifests itself in God's people! Isaiah 5:18-23, 2 Thessalonians 2:12

Agape love rejoices NOT in iniquity!

**"Charity or Agape love rejoices in the truth"!**

Remember Philippians 4:8-9 from this morning? Read Passage!

Psalm 15:1-2, 25:1-5, 51:6, 1 Corinthians 5:8, John 3:19-21, Philippians 1:12-18

**What do you rejoice in this evening?**

If agape love is in you, you will rejoice NOT in iniquity, but in the truth!