

I. INTRODUCTION

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A. Opening Comments

B. Going to the Heart of It

1. **[Someone read Eph 4.1-3]**
2. (vs 2) We see a list of 5 elements that coach us toward dealing with difficult people
  - a. humility
  - b. gentleness
  - c. patience
  - d. tolerance
  - e. love

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3. Working backwards, let's look at "tolerance"

- a. Different translations
  - 1). NASB: tolerance
  - 2). KJV1900: forbearing
  - 3). ESV, NIV84, NRSV, NET: bearing with
  - 4). NCV: accepting
- b. Definition original Greek
  - 1). anechomai /an·ekh·om·ahee
  - 2). 1 to hold up  
3 to sustain, to bear, to endure

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*Enhanced Strong's Lexicon.*

- 3). to endure patiently

*Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary ....*

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- c. Common definition
    - 1). the capacity to bear something unpleasant, painful, or difficult
    - 2). long-suffering

*Merriam-Webster's collegiate thesaurus*

- d. Propose that this is the target of the other 4
  - 1). The goal is to [deal with them as best we can]
    - a.) Minimal objective
      - Deal with them as best we can
      - Don't walk away, give up
    - b.) Better objective = Christian
      - It does not say we should expect to win them over
      - Or to become best buds
      - But we are to allow the Spirit to develop us to achieve that as close as is possible given the other person's disposition, etc.
  - 2). The other four elements are necessary to achieve this

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- 4. As an overview, let's look at how the other four are to work in achieving this
  - a. [phased diagram]
  - b. Humility and love
    - 1). Like two bookends
    - 2). Can you really "bear with" a difficult person without having some love for that person ?
    - 3). Can you really express love for that person without humility on your own part ?
    - 4). They are the foundational enablers
  - c. Gentleness and patience
    - 1). They are conditioners of how humility and love combine to achieve bearing with a difficult person
    - 2). Bearing with won't occur with a hammer approach
    - 3). It also won't occur like a sprint ... it's a distance run
- 5. With this summary, let's now take an in-depth biblical look at each element

## II. THE ELEMENTS IN DETAIL

### A. HUMILITY

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#### 1. What is humility ?

##### a. Definitions

- 1). Absence of pride or arrogance
- 2). Modest self-appreciation > not expected to belittle or humiliate yourself
- 3). humility — noun. the disposition of valuing or assessing oneself appropriately;  
especially in light of one's sinfulness or creatureliness.
- 4). OT Hebrew - "to crouch" or "to bend low to the ground" , as in submissiveness  
or to describe one's impoverished condition
- 5). NT Greek - modesty of character
- 6). Andrew Murray  
"Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble.

##### b. Illustrations

#### 1). From scripture

##### a.) Phil 2.3

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves

- Note what kind of humility ... "of mind"
- Gk trans tapeinophrosune /tap·i·nof·ros·oo·nay/
  - 1 the having a humble opinion of one's self.
  - 2 a deep sense of one's (moral) littleness  
(in the light of being aware of sinfulness)  
*Enhanced Strong's Lexicon.*
- Kind of "people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones", only deeper
  - .. Bluntly put - Matt 7.5  
"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
  - .. If I evaluate myself in the light of my imperfections, it is difficult to look down on others

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b.) Matt 18.4

“Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

- This is the standard
- What is it about the child that makes the child a key example of humility ?  
(assuming the child Jesus used is very young)
  - .. Doesn't have a high opinion of self due to lack of skills and accomplishments
  - .. Hasn't developed self-centered goals
  - .. Basically is happy to be with most anyone regardless of who they are or how they act
  - .. Not afraid of what people think of them > not vain, self-conscious
  - .. Teachable, correctable, can accept being wrong, can quickly apologize
  - .. Have simple trust in those bigger than them
  - .. Quickly forgive when they are wronged

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c.) Matt 11.29: The ultimate example

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- “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,....”
- Wouldn't you rather come to a humble person for help than a prideful one ?
  - Jesus exhibited the key example of humility
    - .. Phil 2.5-8 >> temporarily gave up His heavenly privileges to serve sinful humanity
      - 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
      - 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
      - 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
      - 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
    - .. Note the attitude of Jesus in humility
      - He did not hold onto His high standing while serving the Father and man
      - He reduced Himself to be a servant and assumed lowly human form
      - He served in humility to the point of giving up His life in spite of His true identity, capabilities, perfect moral standing
      - He never once stood up and rebutted someone with "Hey do you realize Who I AM ??!"
  - John E. Mitchell  
“The great leaders of men in all fields have not been the arrogant and the greedy, but the servants. The real servants are the true nobility. The greatest of all, the Son of God Himself, declared that He had come not to be served but to be a servant, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
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## 2. Why do I NEED humility to "bear with" a difficult person ?

- a. Maintain necessary relationships peaceably, fruitfully
- b. Make progress with others in working together, even though difficult
- c. Some people you're trying to win to Christ, or you are trying to disciple, are by nature are difficult

### d. The warnings

#### 1). Micah 6.8

He has told you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justice, to love kindness,  
And to walk humbly with your God?

#### 2). Luke 14.11

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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## 3. Putting into practice

- a. Stop siding with only the people who can help you succeed
- b. Humility's enablements in dealing with a difficult person:
  - 1). ... allows you to listen better, ask learning questions, be a more informed in trying to have the better relationship
  - 2). ... automatically makes you more vulnerable, so be prepared
  - 3). ... allows the difficult person to see you as human, too
  - 4). ... allows you to have a better chance of reconciling differences
  - 5). ...helps you to forgive the difficult person, admit your own mistakes
- c. God supports His children who seek to be humble in His work

#### 2 Chron 16.9

"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His..."

## 4. Points

### a. Illustration of accidental humility

#### 1). Mark Twain

Twain was a distinguished-looking figure in his later years. One day he was strolling in the park when a little girl pattered up to him and asked if she could walk with him. Highly flattered, Twain told her stories for an hour, then gave her a nickel and said, "Now run along home—and when you grow up you can tell your friends you once walked with Mark Twain." "Mark Twain!" echoed the little girl, bursting into tears. "I thought you were Buffalo Bill!"

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## **B. GENTLENESS**

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### 1. What is gentleness ?

#### a. Definitions

##### 1). Bible languages use

a.) Hebrew > a mix of words used, rely on content  
- In general 'anavah /an·aw·vaw > gentleness

b.) Greek > prautes /prah·oo·tace

mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness

- "Praútēs, according to Aristotle, is the middle standing between two extremes, getting angry without reason and not getting angry at all. It is a condition of mind and heart which demonstrates gentleness, not in weakness, but in power. It is a balance born in strength of character. This does not come naturally. It is supernatural ."

Sermon "Gently Engage"

Mike Measley, Evangelical Free Bible Church

2). An expression of compassion, seen in God's dealings with the frail and weak, and expected of believers in their dealings with others.

Manser, M. H. *Dictionary of Bible Themes*.

3). Sensitivity of disposition and kindness of behavior, founded on strength and prompted by love.

Chamblin, J. K. *Evangelical dictionary of biblical theology*

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b. Illustrations of God's gentleness with His people

1). Ps 18.35

You have also given me the shield of Your salvation,  
And Your right hand upholds me;  
And Your gentleness makes me great.

2). Isa 40.11

Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,  
In His arm He will gather the lambs  
And carry them in His bosom;  
He will gently lead the nursing ewes

- 3). 1 Ki 19.11-12 God's dealing with Elijah's reluctance to continue
- 11 So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.
- 12 After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing

b. Advice to believers

1). Prov 15.1

A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger

2). 1 Tim 3.3 re. qualifications of an elder

"...not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle..."

3). Col 3.12

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience

4). James 3.17

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable

a.) "reasonable" > Gk eupeithes /yoo·pi·thace > willing to yield



c. Illustrations

1). The prodigal son's older brother's anger Lk 15.25-32

- a.) He didn't match his anger and rebuke him for his failure to see his brother return, or his father's delight
- b.) Note the father's gentle approach in dealing with the older son

2). Christ as the standard

a.) Matt 11.29

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am  
`gentle and humble in heart...

b.) 2 Cor 10.1

Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and  
gentleness of Christ

- Gentleness here is *epieikeia* /ep·ee·i·ki·ah, which suggests the yielding of a judge, who, instead of demanding the exact penalty required by strict justice, gives way to circumstances which call for mercy > believer's target attitude

Connell, J. C., *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 405)

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### 3. Why do I NEED gentleness to "bear with" a difficult person ?

a. 2 Cor 5.20a

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, **as though God were making an appeal through us ....**

1). Can't get through to a difficult person with a direct approach

2). 1 Cor 4.21 How would YOU like to be approached ??

What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or **with love and a spirit of gentleness**

b. 2 Tim 2.24-25 > Believer to be a promoter of unity

" 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,

25 **with gentleness** correcting those who are in opposition ...."

c. 1 Pet 3.15

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, **yet with gentleness** and reverence

d. Gal 5.23 "gentleness, self control..." are needed to deal with a difficult person

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#### 4. Putting into practice

##### a. Titus 3.1-2

- 1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,
- 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, **showing every consideration for all men**

##### b. A necessary balance

- 1). Matt 7.1-2 Observing our own shortcomings as we deal with difficulty
  - 1 **“Do not judge** so that you will not be judged.
  - 2 “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

#### ***HOWEVER***

##### 2). Gal 6.1

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one **in a spirit of gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted

##### 3). The guidelines

- a.) We are not told to avoid making value judgements of others' behavior
  - b.) We are told to judge others with humility and gentleness
  - c.) Careful to not overstate the other person as difficult
  - d.) Remember Christ's example: gentleness = a judge yielding
    - The person may actually be wrong, but Christ's example (epieikeia) says to not be ready to judge, decide punishment due versus considering circumstances and extend mercy
    - Don't demean, demote, dismiss, think less of the person because of the difficulty the person presents
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## C. PATIENCE

### 1. Definitions

#### a. What is patience ?

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- 1). Biblical patience is a God-exercised, or God-given, restraint in face of opposition or oppression. It is not passivity. The initiative lies with God's love, or the Christian's, in meeting wrong in this way. **In the OT**, the concept is denoted by Heb. 'ārēk, meaning 'long'. God is said to be 'long' or 'slow' to anger

Hoad, J. W. L. (1996). in *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 873)

#### **2). New Testament Greek:** Strong, J. :*Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*

a.) makrothumia /mak·roth·oo·mee·ah

- patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs

b.) hupomone /hoop·om·on·ay

- a patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance

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- 3). Ability to take a great deal of punishment from evil people or circumstances without losing one's temper, without becoming irritated and angry, or without taking vengeance. It includes the capacity to bear pain or trials without complaint, the ability to forbear under severe provocation, and the self-control which keeps one from acting rashly even though suffering opposition or adversity

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Walter A. Elwell, *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*

## 2. Illustrations

### a. Exhorting patience in the believer

1). Prov 29.20

Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?

There is more hope for a fool than for him

2). Gal 5.22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience .....

3). Col 1.9,11

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, .....

11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience.....

4). Col 3.12-13

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another,

5). Jam 1.2-4

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

### b. God/Jesus as the perfect example of patience

1). Exod 34.6

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed,  
“The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth

## 2). God's patience as the perfect example

### a.) Rom 2.4

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

- b.) "There is an ancient legend that Abraham invited into his tent a man, who at mealtime gave no thanks to God for His mercy. Whereupon the patriarch drove him forth into the desert unfed and unsheltered. But in the night God touched Abraham and awoke him, saying to him, "Where is the stranger?" Abraham said, "When he did not fear you, nor thank you, I drove him forth." God rebuked him, saying, "Who made you his judge: I have borne with him all these years. Could you not bear with him one night? Have you learned nothing from my mercy to you?"

Tan, P. L. ,*Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*

## 2). Patience of Job

Jam 5.10-11

10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful

- a.) Job knew that he didn't deserve the troubles God allowed him to have
- b.) He felt that God Himself had placed the roadblocks in his life
- c.) Job didn't know that, although he was righteous, God was allowing Satan to test Job's patience and faith in God
- d.) Job showed the ultimate case of enduring patience

Job 19.25-26

25 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,  
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

26 "Even after my skin is destroyed,  
Yet from my flesh I shall see God

## 3). Patience of Joseph

- a.) Sold into slavery by his brothers
- b.) False witness gave against him and imprisoned
- c.) Years passed before elevated to 2nd in Egypt
- d.) Joseph always believed in the visions God had given him of him leading his family to safety

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3. Why is patience needed to deal with a difficult person ?

a. Prov 15.18

A hot-tempered man stirs up strife,  
But the slow to anger calms a dispute

b. Prov 19.11

A man's discretion makes him slow to anger,  
And it is his glory to overlook a transgression

c. Prov 25.15

By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded,  
And a soft tongue breaks the bone

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#### 4. Putting into practice

##### a. 1 Thess 5.14

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with **everyone**

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##### 1). ...some Christians will never in this life grow beyond certain limitations ...

Paul seems to say that there will always be this kind of diversity of weakness among believers — not that there should be, but that there will be. God assigns faith and growth according to his own inscrutable wisdom. Paul says that in Romans 12:3. - John Piper

a.) i.e. you will have to deal with some people who are difficult, so get used to it and prepare with patience

##### 2). Re. Rom 12.3 > The point is that each member functions to serve the body, not the body to serve the members. The diversity of the many accompanies the unity of the body. Therefore it is important to think soundly about oneself and to evaluate properly God's gifts and their uses

Witmer, J. A. (1985).

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*

a.) Even the difficult members of the body have a role in the unity of the body. Plan to work with them in patience. And you just might be one who is the difficult one to others !

##### b. Jesus is the answer to enduring patience

Heb 12.1-2

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

##### c. We must depend on the Holy Spirit for patience, we cannot bear with difficult people on our own > prayer, faith, one step at a time

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## D. LOVE

### 1. Definitions

#### a. What is love ?

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#### 1). Language definitions

- a.) Heb most common 'ahab, 'aheb /aw·hab
- Multiple translations best understood by context, e.g. affection, friendship, loyalty, desire, liking, attachment
- b.) Grk agape /ag·ah·pay Love for God and love for one another
- Agapē means to love the undeserving, despite disappointment and rejection

White, R. E. O. (1988). Love. In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible*

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- 2). A feeling of deep affection. A central theme in Scripture and Christian theology and ethics. Defines our relationship with God and dictates how we should treat others

*Lexham Bible Dictionary*

- 4). That disinterested and unselfish relation between persons, in which the personality of the one is lost in the other, in which each esteems the other better than himself (Phil. 2:3) ....When John says, "God is love" (1 John 4:16), he does not mean to give a metaphysical definition of the essence of God, but to state God's feelings toward us.

Jackson, S. M. (Ed.).

In *The new Schaff-Herzog encyclopedia of religious knowledge*

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b. Illustrations

## a. Lev 19.18

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD

## b. Deut 10.19

So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt

- 1). Application to Christian who was an alien, and now is not
- 2). How then should the Christian regard a difficult person, unbeliever or believer ?

## c. Matt 22.37-39

37 And He said to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’

38 “This is the great and foremost commandment.

39 “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’

## d. Matt 5.43-48

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’

44 “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

46 “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 “If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

## e. 1 John 4.21

And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also

## f. Eph 5.1-2

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma

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- g. Moses leading the complaining children of Israel
    - a.) He never retaliated on them
    - b.) Instead he continued to plead to God for forgiveness for their complaining and sinful actions against God's mercy and grace
  
  - h. Hosea and his adulterous wife
    - a.) God calls Hosea to love his wife despite her unfaithfulness  
Hosea 3.1  
Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods ...
  
  - i. Parable of the Good Samaritan
    - a.) Difficult person > Samaritans regarded as outcasts, but helped  
Jew out of love for man
  
  - j. Jesus' sacrifice of His life on the cross
    - a.) We were all difficult people, and some remain so
    - b.) Jesus' sacrificial love for difficult people is the paramount example
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3. Why should I love the difficult person ?

a. Parable of the ungrateful slave > in gratitude for the love of Christ for us

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Matt 18.33

Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’

b. As a witness to those around you, believers and nonbelievers, and especially the difficult person > toward the betterment of the difficult person

Jn 13.34-35

34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

c. Making an effort to personally grow spiritually while demonstrating Christ's influence

1). Lk 6.32-35

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

33 “If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

34 “If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount.

35 “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

2). 1 John 4.7-8, 11

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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#### 4. Putting into practice

a. Matt 7.12

In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets

b. Rom 13.10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law

c. 1 Cor 13.4-8a

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8a Love never fails

d. Eph 4.32 > Forgive the other person

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you

e. Heb 12.15 > Avoid being provoked to anger

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled

f. Love is the ultimate foundation for treating others as Christ desires

Paul's description of love in action includes liberality, acts of mercy, and hospitality; avoidance of revenge; sympathy that weeps; rejoicing with others; sharing of weakness, shame, or need; restoring, supporting, and upbuilding others, giving them all honor, kindness, forgiveness, encouragement; restraining criticism, even of the divisive, overscrupulous "weaker brother"—the list is almost endless

White, R. E. O. *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible*

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g. "Desiring God" Web site article *Loving Difficult People*, Stacy Reaoch

1). Pray for your own heart

a.) Col 3.12-14

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity

2). Pray for them

a.) Phil 1.9

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment

- Note "knowledge and discernment" and its effect on generating the full love needed to deal with all others

"..that love should be more than sentimental; it should be knowledgeable and discerning. Having genuine spiritual knowledge (epignosis) of God and depth of insight into His ways enables Christians to love God and others more. "

Lightner, R. P. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck  
*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*

3). Move toward them

- a.) Engage in conversation
- b.) Communicate with them
- c.) Allow the Holy Spirit to develop at least a continuing relationship of influence

4). Find ways to bless and encourage them

### III. WRAPPING IT ALL TOGETHER

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Reshow vs 2 stepped diagram

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#### William Barclay's commentary notes on vs 2

##### Humility

The virtue by which a man becomes conscious of his own unworthiness  
...comes from *setting [his] life beside the life of Christ and in the light of the demands of God*

##### Gentleness

The person who is *praus* is the one who is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time  
...stirred by indignation at the wrongs and the sufferings of others, but is never moved to anger by any  
personal wrongs and insults  
...who has every instinct and every passion under perfect control  
...such an individual is God-controlled

##### Patience

The spirit which will never give in and which, because it endures to the end, will reap the reward  
...the spirit which bears insult and injury without bitterness and without complaint

##### Love

That quality of mind and heart which compels Christians **never** to feel any bitterness, **never** to feel any desire for revenge, but **always** to seek the highest good of absolutely everyone