

A Walk Through

the

Love

of

GOD

Truth: Love is what validates & empowers who a Christian is and what they do.

- It is possible to be obviously gifted by God, yet have no heavenly impact on anyone ... including myself.
 - to have obvious *spiritual gifts*, but produce no *spiritual fruit*.

The only environment in which following Jesus works is that of love ... like our Savior, it must be the air that we breathe, the words we speak, the truth we proclaim and the attitude we serve in.

Issue: Just like us, the Christians of Corinth had everything they needed to follow Jesus effectively.

- they had all the gifts ... they were lacking in nothing. (12:27)
- they had the Holy Spirit ... they were filled with His presence. (12:13)

What they were missing was Love ... God's supernatural, irrational, selfless, unending Love - *Agape*.

***3** Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ ... ³For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?*

1 Corinthians 3

1 Corinthians 12.

- *“Now about spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be uniformed.” (12:1)*

1 Corinthians 13

- *“Now I will show you the way of living that is best of all.” (12:31)*

1 Corinthians 14

- *“When you meet together, everything should be done in a orderly way, so that the congregation may be built up.” (14:26)*

Week #1:

1. Love is not **Words** ... it's not what I say. (v. 1)
2. Love is not **Knowledge** ... it's not what I know. (v. 2)
3. Love is not **Self-sacrifice** ... it's not what I do. (v. 3)

The Point: None of these by themselves are bad or evil ... just worthless without love.

- When God measures them, they are burned off like dross.

Last Week:

⁴ Love is patient and kind.

1. Love

Gk. – **agape** Unrestricted, unrestrained, unconditional and willful choice to put another before myself.

Agape: God's own personal definition of Love.

Last Week:

⁴ *Love is patient and kind.*

2. **Patient.** a quiet enduring with respect to people.

- the strength to be wronged repeatedly and refuse to retaliate, though having the power to do so.
- possessing a long fuse.

*God has a long fuse, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance ...*

Last Week:

⁴ *Love is patient and kind.*

3. Kind. useful; suitable; helpful.

- quick to help others & eager to reach out to those in need, with no expectation of being repaid.

Summary:

Patience endures the wounds of others, and ***Kindness*** pays them back with generous good.

The Power of Patience & Kindness:

1. Because it is not natural ... it causes people to pause & ponder.
2. Because it targets the heart ... it inspires others to also be patient & kind.
3. Because it reminds me of Jesus and His love ... it humbles me when I remember how patient and kind God has been with me.

God is patient and kind ...

This Week: *What is Love?*

⁴ ...Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude.

1st Truth: *Love is being fully satisfied with what God has given me.*

1. not Jealous.

Gk. – zeloo envy; zealous; boiling hot; to set one's heart on _____ .
to boil over from wanting something so intensely.

Note: to be jealous for something can be good ... if you possess the right motive.

- 1 Corinthians 13:31: *So you should **earnestly desire (zeloute)** the most helpful gifts.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:1: *Let love be your highest goal! But you should also **desire (zeloute)** the special abilities the Spirit gives*

- **Negative envy is fraught with destruction.**

There are two kinds of ungodly envy. The one covets the possessions of other people; and such envy is very difficult to avoid because it is a very human thing. The other is worse—it grudges the very fact that others should have what it has not; it does not so much want things for itself as wish that others had not got them. Meanness of soul can sink no further than that.

William Barclay

The Message: (Peterson)

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have ...

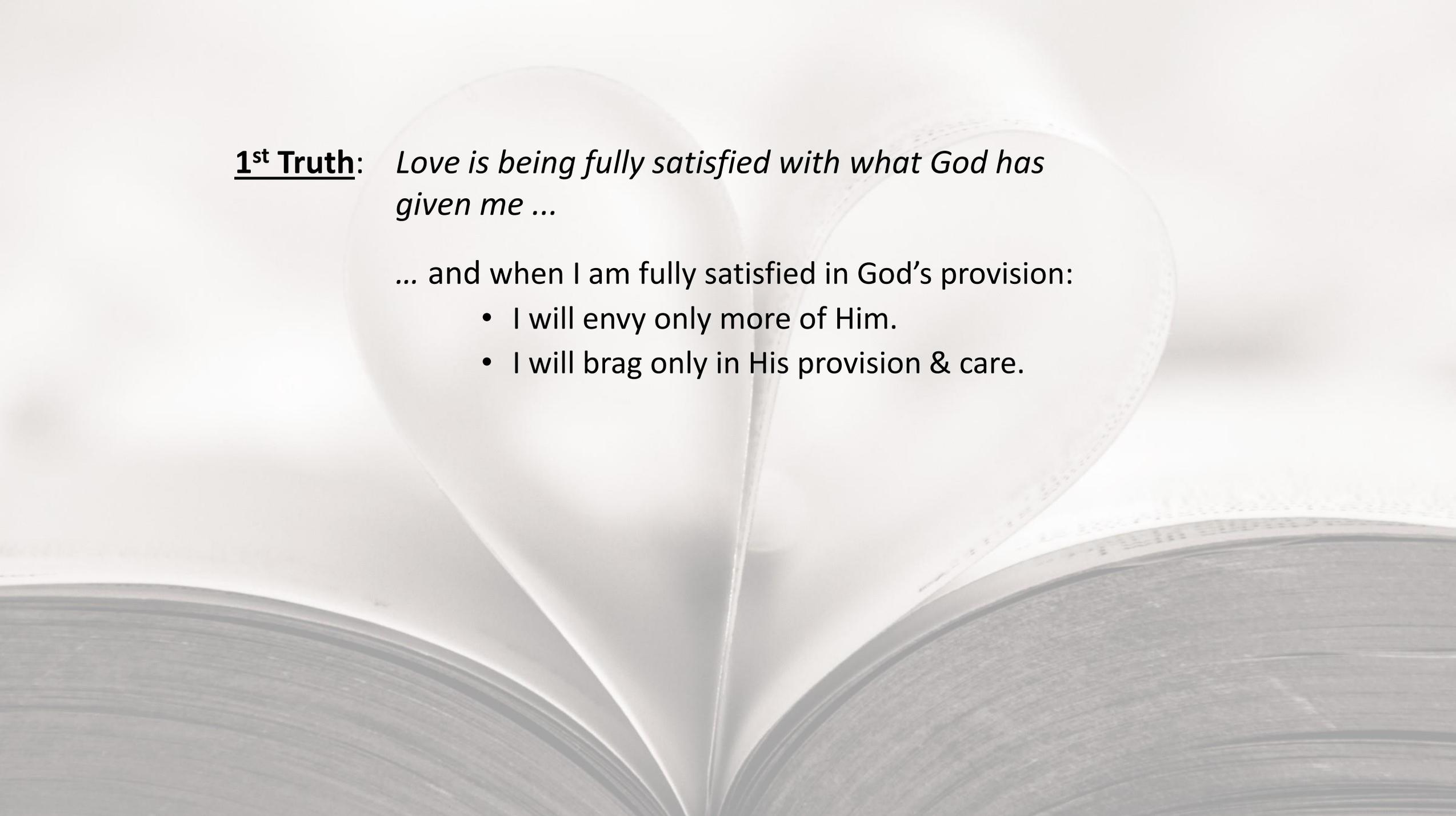
2. not Boastful.

Gk. – perperouomai bragging; speaking with conceit; vain.

parading one's supposed superiority in front of others, and rubbing their face in it.

Bragging is the other side of jealousy. Jealousy is wanting what someone else has. *Bragging* is trying to make others jealous of what we have. Jealousy puts others down; *bragging* builds us up ... *Bragging* puts ourselves first – everyone else, including God, must therefore be of less importance than us.

MacArthur



1st Truth: *Love is being fully satisfied with what God has given me ...*

... and when I am fully satisfied in God's provision:

- I will envy only more of Him.
- I will brag only in His provision & care.

This Week: *What is Love?*

⁴ ...Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude.

1st Truth: *Love is being fully satisfied with what God has given me.*

2nd Truth: *Love is being fully aware of where God found me.*

3. **not Proud.**

Gk. – **phusao** puff up; arrogant; conceited about myself.
having an inflated view of my own importance.

Knowledge puffs up, but loves builds up & edifies.

1 Corinthians 8:1

- **Agape always esteems others more than ourselves, raising them up.**

Behind boastful bragging there lies conceit, an overestimation of one's own importance, abilities, or achievements. Hence the next step: "love is not puffed up." From envy to boasting, from boasting to puffing oneself up is a natural sequence in the psychology of love-lessness. Jesus himself said, "*For everyone who exalts himself shall be brought low, and he that humbles himself will be lifted up*" ... thus, the positive virtue is Christian humility and lowliness of mind.

Lenski

The Message: (Peterson)

Love doesn't have a swelled head ...

4. **not Rude.**

Gk. – **aschemoneo** indecent; improper; ill-mannered; ugly.
acting in defiance of moral standards with
resulting disgrace, embarrassment & shame.

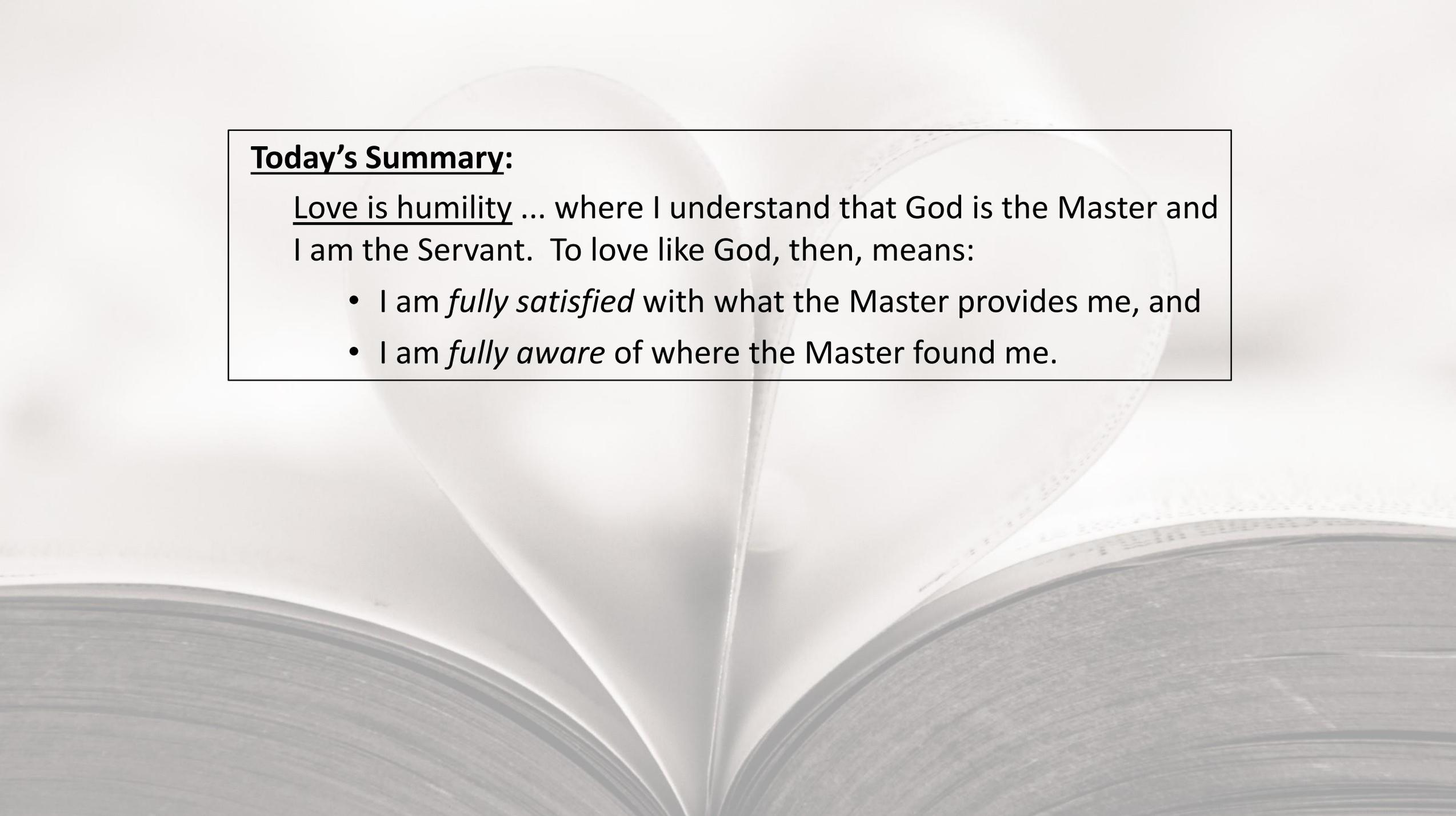
God is concerned not only with the Christian's character, but with the way we express this character to others. Some Christians believe it makes no difference whether they speak bluntly or tactfully, as long as they speak the truth. God says the manner of our speech & actions does make a difference.

Spiros Zodhiates



¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossians 3



Today's Summary:

Love is humility ... where I understand that God is the Master and I am the Servant. To love like God, then, means:

- I am *fully satisfied* with what the Master provides me, and
- I am *fully aware* of where the Master found me.

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1