

# Covenant

## How Do I Love Others

### SR 203 Lesson 4 Text

#### **2 Timothy 2:24-26** (NASB)

**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, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

In his book "Bait of Satan" John Bevere states, *"Many people are unable to function properly in God's purpose and calling for their lives because of the wounds, hurts and offenses in their lives. They are handicapped and hindered from fulfilling their potential.... Offended people hurt and their understanding is darkened. They begin to judge others by assumption, appearance and hearsay."*

All of us have been mistreated by one or more people and if we are not careful pride can rear its ugly head and our hearts become hardened and we become resistant to God and what He is telling us. Our spirit cannot hear what God is saying and we fall into the trap of offense.

#### **Galatians 6** (NASB)

**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. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. **5** For each one will bear his own load. **6** The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. **7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap

eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

When we love, we are sowing to the Spirit and will one day reap a harvest of love. We are not in control of when and where the love will manifest but must trust that God will reward those who are diligent. Sometimes the love given will return from someone else than whom we gave our love to. When we love unconditionally and don't expect anything in return it frees us up to love even more. If we love with conditional love, expecting something in return, then we set ourselves up to be offended and we live in a cycle of conflict with God, others and ourselves.

## 2 Corinthians 10 (NASB)

I Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! **2** I ask that when I am present I *need* not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh. **3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, **4** for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **5** *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, **6** and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. **7** You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. **8** For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame, **9** for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters. **10** For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible." **11** Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons *we are* also in deed when present. **12** For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. **13** But we will not boast beyond *our* measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you. **14** For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; **15** not boasting beyond *our* measure, *that is*, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, **16** so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, *and* not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. **17** But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord. **18** For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.

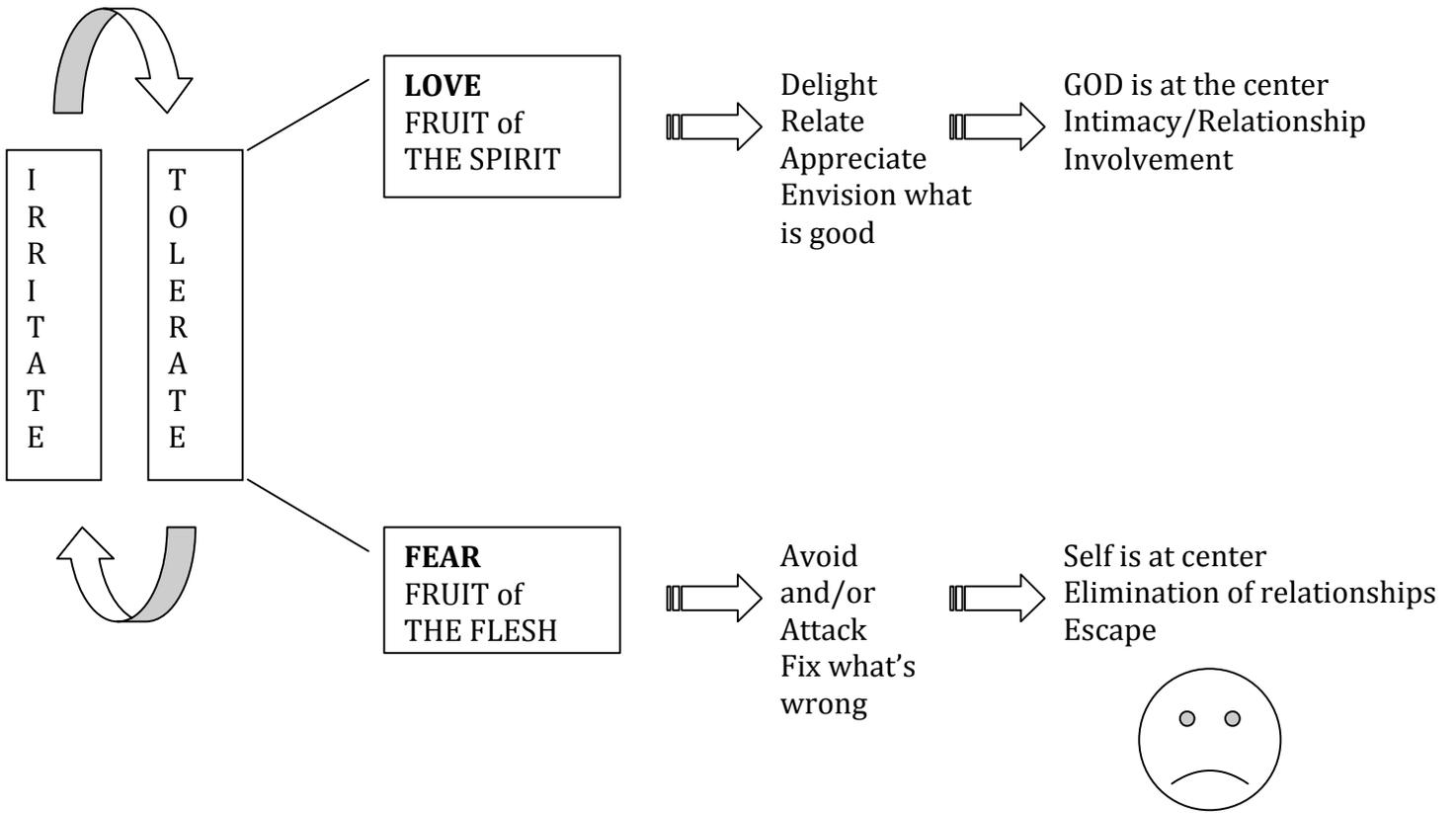
When we build up walls to protect ourselves from being hurt in order to safeguard our hearts and prevent future wounds we also lose the ability to let God's Spirit flow through us to minister to others. Unresolved hurt hinders us from being able to

show affectionate caring. John Bevere says, "In an attempt to protect ourselves from offense, we find ourselves imprisoned within our walls, unable to relate deeply to those around us. Our focus is turned inward and introspective. We guard our rights and personal relationships carefully. Our energy is consumed with making sure no future injuries will occur. Yet if we cannot risk being hurt we cannot give unconditional love. Unconditional love gives others the right to hurt us."

### Galatians 5 (NASB)

I It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. **2** Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. **3** And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. **4** You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. **5** For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. **6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. **7** You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? **8** This persuasion *did not come* from Him who calls you. **9** A little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*. **10** I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is. **11** But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. **12** I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves. **13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **15** But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. **16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. **19** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, **21** envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. **26** Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.





JOY is love's strength, PEACE, is love's security, LONG SUFFERING is love's patience, GENTLENESS is love's conduct, GOODNESS is love's character, FAITH is love's confidence, MEEKNESS is love's humility, TEMPERANCE is love's victory.