



Lifting The Load:
Some Things Have To Go
For Love To Grow

Introduction

Hal David/Burt Bacharach “What the World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love” echoed out of the 60’s.

Also, “Macho, Macho, Macho man”

Introduction

Enjole – “Bring home the bacon – throw it in the pan – never let him forget he’s a man.”

Time has passed and with it the image of love has evolved into a selfish, super person.

Love Needs

The Right Environment

Example – Plants/Flowers

- Need proper soil, special care and protection from enemies.**
- Snails, slugs, spiders and ½ dozen other creatures are ready to devour plants/flowers.**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

Example – Plants/Flowers

- Funny thing – you seldom see these creatures and when you do they don't carry signs saying "Better watch out ... we're dangerous". They don't even make noise, but their presence can destroy a beautiful garden in short order.**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

Example – Plants/Flowers

- If you want your garden to thrive these pests have to go. Ignoring them never works.**
- In God's family and particularly your own family – in order for fragile, tender lives and relationships to survive and thrive – the enemies of growth must be exterminated.**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

A Word About Obedience

- Obedience to God’s commands regarding the home and each other in the home is essential to survival.**
- Background – The Big war finally had ended. Israel possessed the land. It was time to praise Jehovah for His faithfulness (Joshua 23).**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

A Word About Obedience

- Vs 1-4 – What a moment! It must have brought tears to look at the vast spaces and realize “it is ours”! But, it was not a time to stop – they had to press on and do a complete job of clearing the remaining Canaanites.**
- Vs 5-11 – Get the picture? “Don’t mess around!” There is more to be done ... some things have to go!” Joshua’s great concern – that the people would drift into a holding pattern – status quo mentality.**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

A Word About Obedience

– Vs 12-13 – Warning – if you ever lose your distinctiveness by clinging to the heathens and their ways:

- Jehovah would not continue as their shield of protection.**
- They would suffer unmercifully at the hand of the Canaanites.**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

A Word About Obedience

– Vs. 13 – Three things the enemies would become:

- A snare and a trap (for your feet).**
- A whip (on your sides).**
- Thorns (in your eyes).**
- OUCH! – These are the reasons some things have to go. We'll come back to this.**

Love Needs The Right Environment

A Word About Obedience

- Vs 14-16 – Okay what happened?**
- On the heels of Joshua's death here's what happened (Judges 1:19, 27-32 and 34).**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

A Word About Obedience

- Instead of Israel keeping the upper hand, they loosened their grip on absolute compliance, they talked themselves out of Joshua's game plan, compromised and became victims instead of victors.**
- Glove mud (1 Cor. 15:33) – white gloves in a garden – the mud doesn't turn white – the gloves turn black.**

Love Needs

The Right Environment

A Word About Obedience

– Judges 2:8-15 – remember the snare, trap and whips and thorns? Here they are:

- Snare – lived among the Canaanites, tolerated their gods and learned their lifestyle.**
- Whips – Amorites forced the Danites into the hills (drove them off their land).**
- Thorns – Judges 3:5-6 – gave in totally and became blinded.**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

For love (self love and marital love) to grow some things have to go!!!

Here are a few:

- Judgmental spirit (Matt. 7:1-4; James 4:11,12)**
- Intolerance (Rom. 14:1-8)**
- Bitterness/resentment (Eph. 4:31-32)**
- Pride (Prov. 6:17; 16:18)**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

For love (self love and marital love) to grow some things have to go!!!

Here are a few:

- Unkind, nasty remarks (Eph. 4:29)**
- Cynicism (Gal. 2:20)**
- Unforgiving reaction (Eph. 4:31-32)**
- Unapproachable (James 3:17)**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

You may not tell your mate or brother/sister off, but do you freeze him/her out?

The wind chill factor in some homes and churches is set at instant freeze.

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Whips

- Pressuring mate, brother/sister to obey (DUTY) (Matt. 22:37-38; Matt 19:16-22).**
- Conform to my way – narcissistic.**
- Whips like these beat people to death – cage them in like animals (1 Peter 3:1, 7-9).**
- The environment to learn, discover and apply becomes a war zone.**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Thorns

- Persisting in unchecked, willful sin without genuine repentance (1 Cor. 5).**
- Deliberately operating under the control of the flesh – replacing priorities, walking contrary to God’s will results in unashamed carnality (Gal. 5:19-21).**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Thorns

- Hiding behind self-pity, rationalizing to justify wrong behaviors – FACE THE TRUTH!**
- Result – is living a personal life and home life that is a LIE! - exploiting each other (Matt. 23: 25-28).**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Those entering into the Promised Land were experiencing a whole new lifestyle.

– How do you suppose Paul's family responded to his conversion?

- He found a new family in the church and new relations.**
- Adopt a family, parent, grandparent, youth (James 1:27).**

– What to do about it?

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Ask OT leader (Deut. 6:12; 5:15; 8:1-20; Ex. 13:3).

- Remember the Lord your God...**
- Who brought you out ...**
- Of Egypt” (slavery, a place you did not belong) – quit thinking like a slave**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Ask Paul, who as a prisoner wrote:

- Separate yourself from your old ways (2 Cor. 6:17)**
- Past is as dung/loss (Phil. 3:8)**
- Look at what you have now (Phil. 4:18)**
- Conduct yourself worthy of the Gospel (Phil. 1:27-30)**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Ask Paul, who as a prisoner wrote:

- Forgetting the things that are behind (Phil. 3:13)**
- Press toward the mark (Phil. 3:13)**
- Think on these things (Phil. 4:8)**
- A word on “Attitude” – Philippians is one of the most positive books in the Bible – written from a prison.**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Three attitudes -The Grasshoppers vs. the Giants vs the Victors (Numbers 13:33)

- Loser mentality – enemies are “giants” – we can’t win.**
- We are grasshoppers in their sight and OURS - we are nothing.**
- “Let us go up at once and possess the Land for we are well able”.**

What Does This Have To Do With The Home, Church And Restoring Self Esteem?

Three attitudes -The Grasshoppers vs. the Giants vs the Victors (Numbers 13:33)

– Which attitude is yours?

- #1 and 2 brought God's curse and they wandered in the wilderness until dead.**
- It will do the same today! Wander through life unhappy until dead!**
- Attitude #3 is the attitude of victory!**

Conclusion

The garden of love and a new lifestyle CANNOT flourish with snares, traps and thorns. What's in your garden?

These things have no place in our thinking, our family, in the church or in our Christian life.

Conclusion

All throughout the journey, we must move with genuine love. “You are important to me – I am interested in your well-being, I love you.

This attitude quietens the soul, while making relationships an oasis and a haven in the storm.

Conclusion

What is going on in your environment? Has your home life or church life strayed from the plan you committed to when you said “I do”?

Yes, “snares, whips, thorns”

Some things have to go for love to grow!!!

