

# LOVING PEOPLE

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Five keys to loving people...

## I. SEEK TO SERVE.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:1 NIV84** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

### A. Imitate JESUS.

**JOHN 13:15 NIV84** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

**APPLICATION #1:** Are you SERVING in the Church?

## II. BE GRACIOUS AND GRATEFUL.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:2 NIV84** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### A. There is no PEACE without GRACE.

Grace=Undeserved favor/Gods Riches At Christ's Expense

### B. Remember GOOD things about people.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:3 NIV84** I thank my God every time I remember you.  
**PHILIPPIANS 4:8 NIV84** Finally brothers whatever is true and right...

**APPLICATION #2:** Remember the BEST; forget the rest!

## III. PRACTICE POSITIVE PRAYING.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:4-5 NIV84** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

### A. Prayer CHANGES things: You & Them!

### B. Be SPECIFIC in prayer.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:9 NIV84** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

## C. FOUR things to pray:

1. That they grow in LOVE. (9b)
2. That they make wise CHOICES. (10a)
3. That they do the RIGHT thing. (10b)
4. That they live for God's GLORY. (11)

**APPLICATION #3:** Make a prayer LIST - be specific.

## IV. BE PATIENT WITH THEIR PROGRESS.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:6 NIV84** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

### A. God finishes what he STARTS!

### B. Love is PATIENT!

**PHILIPPIANS 1:7 NIV84** It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.  
**1 CORINTHIANS 13:4a NIV84** "Love is patient..."

**APPLICATION #4:** Give someone you love a SECOND chance.

## V. LOVE PEOPLE FROM THE HEART.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:8 NIV84** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus...

### A. Love begins with LISTENING

### B. How do we love the UNLOVABLE?

**ROMANS 5:5 NIV84** God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us.

**APPLICATION #5:** The SECRET of enjoying the people in my life is to be filled with God's love.

**Next Week:** How to find joy in DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES