

TEACHING & NEWS

Challenge Newsletter

From Barratt Ministries

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Motives Of Love

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Love is not a feeling, but is proved and vindicated by demonstration. Love has to manifest in some way. The problem is that we can do the things that love would do and not have love in our heart. For example, a man who desires to seduce a girl will go through all the outward actions of a man in love and say all the right and loving things. He may spend money and time on the girl as any true lover would do, but the actions may cover a heart of lust and not love. This is a big problem to any girl. Likewise this deception is a big problem to any church or any individual Christian for it is easy to do the 'right thing' and yet have the wrong motive.

To understand this chapter it is important to note that in context, Paul is not talking about the subject of love, he is talking about the supernatural gifts of the spirit. Chapter 12 starts by saying; *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant*, and in verse's 8-10 he lists the nine gifts that come from the Holy Spirit - the manifest power, wisdom and knowledge of God. In chapter 14 Paul carries on talking about the gifts of the spirit and how to practically operate them in the body of Christ. He says *let everything be done decently and in order, let one speak and the others judge*, etc.

The chapter on love, chapter 13, is sandwiched in between these chapters on the power of God and is the pertinent and fulcrum point of Paul's whole discourse on the gifts. The power of God without the character of God is very dangerous and will do much damage to the body

Radical Christianity Series

of Christ. To put a small boy in a powerful car will not only damage the boy it will probably damage many other people as well.

The problem is not the power of the car it is the lack of character and immaturity of the child. He can't handle the power - that is the



Maurice Barratt

problem. So it is with God's power - the gifts of the spirit without the fruit of the spirit is very dangerous and does much damage in today's Church.

Most Christians would say that the following verses from chapter 13 are a description of love. Read them carefully

"Charity suffers long, and is kind; charity envies not; charity vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, Does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Charity never fails:" 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

I would beg to differ for the following reason. Love is a spiritual quality; in other words it is not to do with matter. It is not subject to the laws of matter and is the same as any other emotion, part of our spiritual makeup. The bible says that spiritual things need to be spiritually discerned. They can not be described in physical terms nor can they be understood by description.

For example; hate is one of our emotions and therefore can not be described. It has to be 'felt'. A person who has never been angry would not understand what you were talking about if you said you hated someone and when you tried to explain that you wanted to hit them or wish them harm they would not identify with this feeling if they had not experienced the same thing themselves.

Actions are always consequences of our emotions

When we do try and explain and say that we 'slammed the door' or 'went red in the face', we are not describing anger, we are describing the consequences of having anger and that is something completely different. The emotions of jealousy, fear or resentment would be exactly the same, we would be describing **the results of**

having these emotions.

So it is with love and if you read the verses again you will have to agree that Paul is telling us how we behave when we have love. We are kind, we are willing to suffer a long time, we are patient, we think no evil and so on. All these are the physical outworking of the internal and spiritual quality of love. Verses 4-8 are the consequences of love.

King James version

It is interesting to note that in the King James version of the bible the word used in Chapter 13 is not love, but charity. The Greek word 'agape' is translated sometimes as love and sometimes as charity. The translators have obviously realised that there is a difference because in other parts of Corinthians agape is translated as 'love' and not 'charity' and we should note it as well.

The word 'love' has lost all its true meaning in our English language where most young people think sex and love are synonymous, so it is not a good word to use here. The problem is that the word 'charity' has also lost its original meaning and today it is understood as a way of avoiding taxes and obtaining concessions from the government, or maybe giving away our unwanted clothes. Charity used to mean 'for the love of it'. Working in a Charity shop and being paid for it is not doing it for charity - to work for charity is to do it 'for the love of it' and not for money. Most charities these days are businesses that do good works. I am not criticising charities, that is not my point, I am showing that we have lost the original meaning. I am going to use the word compassion from now on in this chapter for I feel that it conveys the right motive.

Compassion is love in action. Jesus was *moved with compassion when he saw the multitudes as sheep having no shepherd* and he did something about it - he healed them and fed their poor. To see distressing situations

in Africa or India on a television programme may cause us to feel pity and we may even shed a tear, but compassion will make us give up our holiday in the sun to go to that country and practically help in the situation. The feelings are not enough, we have to be moved if we want to claim that we have compassion. We will see that this is the motive that God is looking for when we use our gifts - natural or spiritual - and when we do our good works.

Right action - wrong motive

I am now going to consider verses 1-3 and show that they are dealing with the motives of love. To do the right action and have the wrong motive is a very serious offence to God. The Gifts of the Spirit and the good deeds of a Christian are wonderful and will accomplish God's work, but only the motive of love will accomplish God's will.

Verse 1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

This first verse shows us how God sees a person who has the right vocal gift without the right motive and it irritates God - a clanging gong and a tinkling cymbal. Paul says that I may have the tongues of men and of angels - wonderful gifts that would bring the praise of the world and of the Church, but if my motive is not pleasing to God then he sees it as clanging gong or a tinkling symbol. What a shame it is if, when we use our wonderful gifts, the underlying motive is pride, self seeking, or loving the praise of men. Instead of pleasing God it would have the exact opposite effect and be a sound without meaning and an irritation to God's ears.

Wrong motives can be an irritation to God

Verse 2

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I

am nothing.

This second verse tells us how God sees someone who has faith and power gifts without the motive of love. Paul says that if we have the supernatural gift to know all mysteries and all knowledge. These are mighty gifts that have the entire knowledge of God at our disposal. The wonders

How can mighty gifts produce nothing?

of science and music and the knowledge of God's origin, understanding *the mystery of iniquity* are all included in these gifts. Paul then talks about all faith to move mountains. Notice he doesn't say a mustard seed to move a mountain he says all faith to move mountains - plural. The Christians are very impressed with these gifts and the men who demonstrate them fill huge stadiums. God, however, only looks at the

motive and if there is no compassion then he says ***we are nothing***. How can these mighty gifts produce a statement like that from God?

I think that another scripture from the Sermon on the Mount will help us here. It will be covered in a later book but it will help us at this point.

Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works?

Then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity. Matthew 7:15-23

Jesus is talking about false prophets, and he says that not those who do the 'works of God' will be recognised, but those that do 'his will'. The kingdom will always benefit when we cast out devils and do wonderful works in Jesus name, but without Jesus character the good work actually becomes a work of iniquity in Gods eyes and he says I never knew you - that is, you did not have an intimate relationship with me. You knew 'about me' and used my power but you don't know me. Very frightening I know, but it is quite clear. A good example would be my relationship to the Queen of England. I know all about her. I could tell you about her husband and her likes and dislikes in food. I could even tell you the name of her pet corgi dogs. I could talk about her for hours because I know an awful lot about her. The problem is that she doesn't even know I exist, and if she met me I would instantly recognise her, but sadly she would not recognise me and say to her husband, "I do not know this man."

So many Christians know all about God and his power and his grace, but the question is always - does God know them?

Verse 3

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing.

This verse tells us how God views a person who does the ultimate good deeds and has not the right motive - it profits them nothing. Paul goes to the ultimate in his example and says that if I give **all my goods** to feed the poor - not some, or most, but all. This surely is a great and worthy deed that will benefit the poor, but the question is will it benefit me? The answer is a resounding no, if the motive for this great act is not compassion.

Almsgiving is not a Christian act per se as all religions practice this from Hindu, Muslim and even the Masons and other apparently non religious orders give to the poor. Atheists also give to worthy causes so there is no reward from God for these good deeds and it will have no bearing in our kingdom rewards when we face Christ at his judgement seat.

Many will say they have done these deeds in Jesus name and it will make no difference, for the criteria for reward is that we did God's will and not just his work. Jesus will look at why we did the deed, not that we did it. A very sobering thought, but one that we would do well to take note of for it will be too late on that day.

The second area is that of martyrdom. Surely this is the ultimate sacrifice that anyone can make. I agree that this is indeed the ultimate, but with God only the motive will matter and only if this motive is compassion will it profit us - bring the words well done and a reward to follow. Many people have given their lives for a cause, but if the cause is a false one, or the motive is borne out of hate there is no benefit to them. The person may have a good cause and be a Christian and have a sure knowledge of eternal life but we are not talking about eternal life I am talking about the judgement seat of Christ for rewards or punishment. To die because I would not deny Christ seems commendable, but if the motive is pride and stubbornness - no one will make me give in - then we lose our reward in the kingdom.

Gifts will profit the kingdom, but motives will profit the person.

A full version of this message is available on CD, price **£4.50**, code **SOMCD25**
Ring **0161 224 2620** to order

Projects

Barratt Ministries supports missionary projects & work amongst the poor in several countries of the world



Dear Maurice & Joanna,

Many thanks to you for the gift of the Bibles to our church. Many wonderful things have come our way as a result of our connection to you. We are ever grateful for you being there for us. Our appreciation to your supporters in the house groups for standing with you. Please find enclosed two photographs. We bought 9 Luganda Bibles for our church which have proved to be useful. Unfortunately the cameraman arrived late when most of the beneficiaries had left for home. He found the ministers behind and some children. Each held up a copy of the Bibles you bought. In the second photo Stella and I are having our hands on the platform across the Bibles.

God bless,
Frank & Louise



The Orphanage

The orphanage is coming along well. Frank and Louise will be moving in there as soon as everything is completed. Maurice and Joanna hope to go there when the work is complete and cut the ribbon to open the facility. To the right are photos of the progress of the orphanage with the house we built for Frank in the background. Please pray that we will be able to finish this project by the end of 2008.



If you would like to help with any of our projects, cheques can be made payable to:
Barratt Ministries Uganda, Barratt Ministries Nigeria, or Project India.
Or just make a cheque to **Barratt Ministries** and specify the project you wish to help.
Address and bank details on back page.



Dear Brother & Sister Barratt,

Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. Trust you all are doing well. Thank you for the email and also for sending the help for the pastors. We are very grateful to you for your support. I will email you as soon as the cheque arrives.

Here the work of the Lord is growing. We have just finished training our first batch of Bible College students and the next batch will commence next year. The church is also doing fine. We did have a couple of setbacks in the ministry as a couple of our pastors who were with us since several decades have passed away. They were very faithful and profitable unto the Lord. We are finding it hard to replace them as they had quite big shoes to fill.

Please convey our love and regards to Sis. Barratt and to the family.

We love you and you are in our prayers.
Samuel Jaikumar.



God has really helped us since the beginning of 2008 and we have been able to send £2,300 to continue with the building of the orphanage. Work has started again and progress is rapidly being made. By the time you read this we should be up to the roof level. Please pray that God will help us to finish this project speedily.

A few weeks ago Surakat phoned to say that the camera we had sent him two years ago had broken and was too expensive to repair. A member of one of the Barratt Ministries housegroups donated a camera and it has arrived safely in Lagos. The photos below were taken with this new camera. Please thank God with us that the camera arrived safely and that the work is progressing. We serve a great God.



Recent photos from the building site. We are now nearly up to the roof level.

Doing The Right Thing With The Wrong Motive

Well, this is such a tricky subject isn't it? We are all supposed to do the right things, but as far as God is concerned, that's not enough unless it is done with a pure motive. We can't kid God - he sees all. We can kid others, some of the time, but God is our witness ALL of the time.

I suppose we all have it in us. We do things that can appear so sweet and thoughtful, but in our hearts we can have ulterior motives. It could just be giving out



by Joanna Barratt

Christmas Cards to people you don't like just so that they don't have any reason to call you behind your back. Then there's the problem of even buying Christmas Cards in the first place, when you hate the whole idea of Christmas being such a commercialised time of year. I know people who just give out lots and lots of cards so that they get them in return and brag about how many they have received. Some have even saved the cards they got the previous year to add to the current ones so that there would appear to be more on their shelves and walls.

Have you ever decided to hold a birthday party for one of your children and invited kids you don't particularly like, or the children of parents you don't particularly like, just because they will swell the numbers and be expected to bring a gift? You, and possibly your child, can't tolerate them normally, but because they will be coming with their arms laden you allow them into your company.

There are pastors who preach the gospel and do their utmost to convert the lost only to brag to their compatriot

ministers that with a few more members tithing regularly, they will soon be able to afford the new extension to the church building. Preaching the gospel is good, getting sinners converted is admirable, but focussing on the new extension and using people to fund their vision is abysmal and unacceptable to God.

Equally unacceptable is the fact that when we have famous evangelists holding crusades in our locality, we band together with all the surrounding churches and get bus loads from each church to support the meetings. The evangelist preaches his heart out to the crowd, but his calling and intention was to preach to the sinners instead of to those who are already converted.

I remember some time ago my husband, Maurice, holding some Men's Seminars. He printed leaflets and distributed them to those who supported his work to enable them to invite friends. One day someone came up to him and questioned some of the wording on the leaflets. Maurice had made mention that there would be a free buffet, but was charging an admission fee of £2.00 which he had stated was to cover the cost of food, etc. The person made an objection to how Maurice had worded this, but also made the observation that Maurice had put a limit on the giving by stating

unwittingly that those who had intended to be more generous were only required to pay £2.00, and those without money would feel obliged not to come. He had to change the leaflet and confess that his motive had been wrong.

We have to think seriously about why we are doing what we are doing, because the root of everything is important to God. He can get sinners and evil people to do good things - you only have to watch the film 'Schindler's List' to know that here was a covetous man, thankful that war had broken out, and bent on making money out of other people's misfortunes. He didn't care about the Jews. He wanted the cheapest work force possible; so rather than employ the Polish people he took on the Jews, simply because he didn't have to pay them. In German eyes they were of less importance than rats. It was God who moved Schindler to do what he did when he saved hundreds of Jews from the gas chambers. It was God who gave Schindler popularity with the Germans so that he could purchase so many people with the money he had made in business. It was God who changed Schindler's attitude towards the very people he had once

despised. As soon as the war had ended Schindler's God given mandate was done and he reverted back to what he was. His marriage failed and so did his business. But God had done what he wanted through him.

If you only want to be the donkey that God uses because the people God is trying to speak to just refuse to hear, and there is nobody else around at the time, then God will put you to service. But if you want to be regarded as someone he can trust to do specific tasks at specific times, and for what we have done to be of value - storing treasure in heaven - then it's important to deal with our attitudes and do whatever we are doing with the right motives, because God does not deal with words, **he sees the heart.**

Maurice Barratt is teaching on the vital subject of

Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God

**BARRATT MINISTRIES CONVENTION
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Ring 0161 224 2620 to book or for more information.

EVENTS DIARY

Maurice Barratt's Regular Teaching:

Mon	Eagley Bank, Shawforth, Rochdale, 8.00pm	☎ Gail Barrett	0161 224 2620
Tue:	14 Perth Avenue, Higher Ince, Wigan WN2 2HJ, 8.00pm	☎ Geoff Hemersley	0194 223 0845
Wed:	3 Pavillion Court, Earlstown WA12 9GD, 8.00pm	☎ Steve Pilkington	0194 267 4519
Thu:	19 Wyatt St. Goldenhill, Stoke on Trent WAZ OTQ, 6.00 pm.	☎ Alex and Rachel White	0178 277 3872
	66 Hartwell Road, Stoke on Trent ST3 7BD, 7.45 pm	☎ Mark & Ilsa Jordan	0178 233 0309

Coming Events:

Sun 2nd March	M : At New Beginnings Church St. Cuthbert's Close, Preston	☎ Solomon	0177 276 1055
Sat 8th March/ Sat 12th April	M & J : At IMF. Unit 5-6 Mulberry Business Centre Quebec Way, Surey Quays SE16 7LB	☎ Leonard Amechi	0794 701 4969
Sat 15th March	J : At Ladies' Breakfast. Lightbowne Evangelical Church Kenyon Lane, Moston, Manchester	☎ Lyn Crick	0161 653 3040
Sun 30th March	M & J : At Groves Pentecostal Church 133 Lower Street, York YO31 7NA	☎ Maggie Redpath	0785 545 2617
Sun 13th April	M & J : At Christ Shalom Bible Centre 96 Sibthorpe, 3rd Road, Lee SE12 9DP	☎ Rev. Martins Betire	0845 052 3605
Thu 24th April	M : Teaching at the Methodist Church Main Street, Dorrington, Lincs	☎ John Parks	0152 683 0737

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Maurice and Joanna have been made directors of Marriage & Family Life with IMF (International Ministers Fellowship). This has opened many doors in the London area for ministry and Maurice and Joanna are now teaching in a different church the second Sunday in each month.



Marriage & Family Life

Maurice and Joanna will be in and around London Monday 14th to Sunday 20th April, to speak on this vital subject. To book them into your church

contact: Pauline Amechi.

Tel: 0795 144 9406.

Email: paulineamechi@yahoo.com.

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