

CHARACTER & POWER

The Character of Love and The Power of God

FOUNDATION STATEMENT: If the church is going to walk in the power of God and fulfill its mandate in the Earth, then it must qualify itself for the power God by developing in the character of love

I. The church has a mandate and an assignment in the Earth (Genesis 1:28, Psalm 8:6-8, Matthew 5:13)

- A. If the church doesn't know how to walk in the true power of God who's going to preserve and protect the Earth?
- B. The Earth is in the shape it's in because of the church

II. The foundation of love must be in place if the church is going to have any real impact in the Earth

- A. The word of God is dependent on the love of God to work (Matthew 22:36-40)
 - 1. All the law and the prophets
 - a. The plan of redemption and everything that came as a result of it was prophesied in the Old Testament
 - 2. God is the Word and God is Love (John 1:1-5, 1 John 4:16)
 - a. If Love is not working in your life, then the Word (which is Love Himself) isn't working either
 - 3. This commandment of love is like a curtain rod upon which every promise in this Bible hangs and if that rod of love falls and fails, then every promise in this Bible will fall and fail with it
 - a. Every other scripture is hanging and dependent on this one
 - 4. The word will only work in your life to the degree that your love walk will allow it to
- B. Love is the principle upon which all other principles hang and without THE principle in place none of the other principles will work (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
 - 1. Your giving will not profit you if love is not working in your life (Matthew 5:23-24)
 - 2. Your faith will not work if love is not working in your life (Galatians 5:6, Mark 11:22-25)
 - 3. The armor of God will not work if love is not working in your life (Ephesians 6:10)
 - 4. If the foundation of love is not in place, nothing works the way it's supposed to work
 - a. Matthew 22:38 – First or beginning
 - b. EX: You have to start with the foundation of the house if the walls are going to work the way they are supposed to work and the roof is going to work the way it's supposed to work. The walls and the roof and every other part of that house are depending on the foundation so that they can work properly.
 - c. The promises and principles of God don't work independent and a part from the love of God
- C. If the foundation of love is not in place what can the church do (Psalm 11:3)

1. We can have a lot of services, we can preach a lot of messages, we can sing a lot of songs, and we do a lot of churchy things, but what real impact can we have in the Earth if the foundation of love is not in place?

III. A call for character

- A. Name represents power (Acts 4:7)
 1. When you come in the name of a person you come with the power and authority that person carries and it's as if that person were standing before you today
 2. We've been given the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11)
 3. We have been sent into the Earth from Heaven and we are here in the name of Jesus (Mt 28:18, Mk 16:25)
 - a. Jesus tells us to go in his name, in his authority, and in his power which is all authority and all power
- B. You can't walk in the power of that name without first of all **qualifying yourself** to do so, by walking in the character that name carries
 1. There's more to coming in the name of Jesus than just coming in the power of that name. When you come in the name of Jesus you're also coming in the character that name demonstrates.
 - a. EX: People going to the golf course in my name
 2. Jesus came in the Father's name, but he came in the character of that name and that's what qualified him to walk in the power of that name (John 5:43, John 5:19, 8:28-29)
 - a. He didn't just walk in the power of God because he was the son of God. He walked in the power of God because he qualified himself by walking in the character of God.
 - 1) Resisting the temptation of missing the resurrection; that's character.
 - b. Because Jesus walked in the character of the Father's name, he qualified himself to walk in the power of the Father's name and with that power we saw him heal the sick, raise the dead, and calm storms.
 3. We've talked so much about the power of the name of Jesus and neglected to talk about the character of that name
- C. When you violate the character of the name you're coming in, you disqualify yourself for the power that name carries
 1. They tried to use the name of Jesus, but because they lacked the character of love, the power of that name didn't work (Acts 19:13-16)
 - a. They didn't qualify themselves with character
 2. You can be born-again and called, but the system is set up that if you don't walk in character, then you don't walk in power (Mark 9:38-39)

- D. We've desired the power, but refused to submit to the character
 - 1. Let this year be the year of character development and qualification
 - a. In 2009 if you'll develop in the Character of mine, in 2010 you'll win. You'll win in politics, you'll win in education, and you'll win in media. You'll win like you've never won before and you'll win in areas that you've never won before.
 - 2. If we'll get busy developing in the character of love, we'll abound in the power of God

IV. The character of love that's required

- A. Ephesians 4:1-3
 - 1. Lowliness – Humility – Submitting to God and His Word whether you feel like it or not
 - 2. Meekness – Gentle, mild, ready to hit the pause button, not quick on the trigger
 - 3. Longsuffering – Patient, consistent, never-changing, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance
 - 4. Forbearing – Making allowances, giving the benefit of the doubt, constantly forgiving, put up with, not easily offended
- B. Do everything in the name of Jesus. Not just in the power of that name, but in the character of that name (Colossians 3:17)
 - 1. If you can't put "in the name of Jesus" before what you're going to do or say, then don't do it or say it
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 16:14 (AMP) – Let everything you do be done in love
 - 3. Philippians 2:3 (KJ) – Let nothing be done through strife
 - 4. Hebrews 13:1 – Let love for your fellow believers continue and be a fixed practice with you [never let it fail]
 - 5. 1 Corinthians 14:1(AMP) – Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire this love [make it your aim, your great quest]
- C. 1 Peter 2:17 – Honor – Value, respect, as of great price, precious, esteemed, especially dear
 - 1. Jesus died for that guy, therefore he must be valuable to Jesus, he must be precious to Jesus
 - 2. Jesus gave his life for that person and when you don't value the person, you're not valuing the one who gave his life for him
- D. Character is swearing to your own hurt and changing not (Psalm 15:4)
 - 1. No matter how uncomfortable it is for me to keep this commandment I'm going to keep it
 - a. Blood came out of Jesus' pores and he wouldn't change
 - 2. A person who walks in the character of love, will see the power of God show up in their life (Daniel 3)
 - a. When somebody showed up in character, God showed up in power
 - 1) What if the church would show up in character

V. Form, but no power

- A. Because the church has neglected the character of love, we haven't walked in the power of God and we've had a lot of form, but we haven't seen a lot of genuine results (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
 - 1. Power is what's necessary to see change and character is what's necessary to see power
 - a. EX: Where's the cities being changed and nations being changed
 - b. We left the power of God at the altar when we refused to marry the character of love
 - 2. Before there's ever going to be a release and operation of power, There's first of all going to be a call for character
 - a. Who's going to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength (resources)?
 - b. Who's going to extend the same love towards others that the Father has extend towards them (John 13:34)?
 - c. Satan has gotten us to neglect this commandment in our deception that we got "it" and most believers don't even know what "it" is
- B. God's has to work through the church if we're going to see the kind of results that the church is capable of producing
 - 1. John 14:10 – The Father (who is Love) who was in Jesus was doing the works
 - 2. John 16:7, Romans 5:5 – The same father that was in him is in us
 - 3. If love is not working in me and through me, then God is not working in me and through me
 - a. God can only work through you (the church) in power to the degree that he works through the church in the character of love (Ephesians 3:14-20)
- C. Every temptation in life is a temptation to get you out of the character of love because Satan knows if he can disrupt you in character, he can disrupt you in power and keep you from being victorious on the Earth