

In healthcare for Gods Service-Distinctive in Love

Part 1

(Suitable for use within a group over approximately one hour, or for an individual's personal Bible reading)

Thinking about life as a student in healthcare

1. In your own words - define love.
2. Think of a close non Christian class mate. What terms would they use to define 'love'?
3. Identify two people whom you interact with regularly at university (class mates, tutors, auxiliary staff) that you would describe as 'loving'. What are 3 defining characteristics of these two loving people?
4. In the busyness of treating patients, preparing for tutorials and studying for exams.... do you have time to love God at uni?

What does God have to say?

A definition of Love - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7,

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

So...Love is:	- Patient, kind (v4) - Always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (v7)
So...Love is not:	- Envious, proud (v4) - Rude, self seeking ,easily angered (v5)
So...Love does not:	- Boast - Record wrongs (v5), delight in evil (v6) - but rejoices in the Truth.

1 Corinthians forms part of a letter from the Apostle Paul to a church needing correction as they have wandered from the Truth of the Scriptures. The immediate issue that Paul is addressing is the claim by some of the Corinthians that they are spiritually superior because of their gifting from God (1Cor 12:4-12). Their Apostle (and ours), instructs while Spiritual Gifts are a genuine gracious endowment from God to an individual – in the absence of love- they are of no value (13:1-3) as they do not build up the Church (12:7) and they are passing (13:8-10).

Putting it into practice

1. Think back to your definition of love given earlier. How does Paul's definition differ to yours? Can you identify aspects of your experience, your cultural, social and relational background that contributes to any observed differences in the definition given by your self and the Apostle Paul?

2. Think back to your proposed definition of love from your non Christian class mate. In light of this, would you say that God's definition of love (given through Paul in 1 Corinthians) is radical in your place of clinical study? If so, how, and why?
3. Identify three aspects of love, as defined by the Apostle Paul, which are hardest to carry out as a health care student.
Identify situations where these difficulties most obviously manifest; be as specific as possible. Consider situations with staff, patients, instructors and class mates.
4. Identify three aspects of the definition of love given by the Apostle Paul that you have seen manifested in your clinical placement. Describe these situations.
How did these actions of love:
 - a. Affect the situation?
 - b. Affect the person being loved?
 - c. Affect you?
5. Do you think that loving your class mates, patients and staff (in accordance with God's definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13) can impact the way your non Christian class mates perceive Jesus Christ?

Bible Bites

(Suitable to be completed over approximately 20-25 minutes)

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