

CHARITY & ITS FRUITS

Review-**Sermon 4b**- “Love is long-suffering and kind...”-1 Cor. 13:4a

“A Christian spirit disposes persons meekly to bear ill that is received from others, and cheerfully and freely to do _____ to others.”

“Persons may do good to others’ _____, which is the most excellent way of doing good...Men may do good to others’ souls by taking pains to instruct the ignorant and lead them into the knowledge of the great things of religion, and by counseling and warning others and stirring them up to their duty...and also by setting them good examples...”

“People may do good to others by furthering their _____ estate or substance, or with regard to their good name, or their esteem and acceptance among men, or otherwise may greatly contribute to the comfortableness of other’s circumstances in the world.”

“We should do good to both good and bad. This we should do as we would _____ God, our Heavenly Father...The world is full of various kinds of persons; some are good, and some are evil. We should especially do good to those that are of the household of faith...But though we should more abound in beneficence to them, yet our doing good should not be confined to them; but we should do good to all men.”

“We should do good to those that do ill to us. This should be the Christian’s way of _____, not returning evil for evil but good for evil...We should do good to the thankful and the unthankful...Many make that an objection against doing good to others, giving anything to others which they need, ‘If I do, they will never thank me for it; they will not accept it thankfully. If I go on with kindness, they will still go on with their abuses and injuries.’ And this men are ready to think excuses them from showing any more kindness. But such persons have not sufficiently learned Christ, and show their unacquaintance with the nature and spirit of Christianity.”

“Whatever good is done, it is no proper kindness in the doer of it unless it be done _____...What is done heartily is done from love, is done with delight, and not grudgingly, and with backwardness and loathness...We should not be scant or sparing in our gifts, but open-hearted and open-handed.”

“The main thing in that love, which is the sum of the Christian spirit, is benevolence or _____ to others...The proper evidence of wishing good to another is doing good to another.”

“If a Christian spirit disposes persons freely to do good to others, all those who are of a contrary spirit and practice may hence be reprov’d. A malignant, _____ spirit is directly contrary to this; for that is a spirit which disposes men to do evil to others, and not good.”

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Review-**Sermon 5**- “Charity contrary to an envious spirit” 1 Cor. 13:4b

“A truly Christian spirit is _____ to an envious spirit.”

“Envy may be defined, a spirit of opposition to others’ comparative happiness, or to the happiness of others considered as compared with their own. The thing to which envious persons are opposed is the comparative relation between that state of honor or happiness which others have, or may have, and their own state...There is a disposition _____ in man to love to be uppermost, and this disposition is directly crossed when they see others above them.”

Envy is seen “in an uneasiness in seeing others’ prosperity instead of rejoicing in it. It is a trouble to them. It is grievous to their spirits to see them rising so high, and come to such honor and prosperity... And from such a spirit (an envious spirit) they stand ready to rejoice at anything which happens to _____ the honor and comfort of what they have obtained; they would be glad to have them brought low... And it is from this disposition that seeing others’ prosperity often sets persons talking against them and speaking evil of them. They envy them the prosperity or honor they have obtained, and they hope by speaking evil of them in some measure to diminish that honor and to beget a mean opinion in others of them.”

“This opposition to their prosperity appears in a _____ of their persons for it... Persons often have an ill spirit against others for nothing else but their prosperity... They resent their prospering and coming to honor as if they were guilty of some injury to them in it; and sometimes there is a settled hatred in some toward others upon this account.”

“A Christian spirit disposes persons to _____ in others’ prosperity. It not only mortifies a disposition to grieve at it, but on the contrary gives a disposition to rejoice in it.”

“If we consider how much a spirit and practice which are _____ to a spirit of envy is insisted on in the precepts which Christ hath given. How full is the New Testament of precepts of good will to others, principles of meekness, humility and beneficence, which are all the opposite of a spirit of envy! And how often are we particularly warned there against envy.” (130) *Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 3:3, 2 Corinthians 12:20, Galatians 5:19-21, Galatians 5:26, 1 Timothy 6:4-6, Titus 3:3, James 3:14-16, James 5:9, 1 Peter 2:1-2*

“The _____ scheme, all of it from beginning to end, tends to the contrary of this spirit. The Christian form of doctrine doth abundantly hold forth those things which militate against a spirit of envy. The things which they teach us of God are exceedingly contrary to it. For there we are taught how far God was from grudging us the most exceeding honor and blessedness, and how he has grudged us nothing as too much to be done for us, and nothing as too great and too good to be given us; He hath not grudged us His only begotten Son, that which was the most precious and more dear of all to Himself; for what was dearer to God than His only begotten, dearly loved Son? He hath not grudged us the highest honor and blessedness in union with Him.”

“The Christian scheme of doctrine teaches us how Christ came into the world to deliver us from the fruits of Satan’s _____ toward us. The devil being miserable himself envied mankind that happiness which they had, and could not bear to see our first parents in their happy state in Eden, and therefore exerted himself to the utmost to ruin them, and accomplished it. The gospel teaches how Christ came into the world to destroy the works of the devil, and deliver us from that misery into which his envy has brought us.”

“It is _____ that is the great root and source of envy. It is because of the pride of men’s hearts that they have such a disposition to be distinguished and singular in honor and prosperity, and making them so uneasy as seeing others above them... Men are wont to have various excuses for their envious spirit by which they account themselves justifiable.”

“So contrary is the spirit of envy to a Christian spirit, so evil in itself and so injurious to others, that it should be disallowed and put away by all, and especially by those who profess to be Christians... The spirit of envy is the very contrary of the spirit of heaven, where all rejoice in the happiness of others; and it is the very _____ of _____ itself, which is a most hateful spirit, and one that feeds itself on the ruin of the prosperity and happiness of others.”