“Pursuing Relationships That Matter”

(Part 4)

9 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 for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:9-10 NIV)

**The Message**

 So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover’s life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

* Paul didn’t hesitate to pray

 (1) That their love would be rich in abundance

 (2) That their love would increase in knowledge and all discernment.

* Paul had a Divine insight into love

**Galatians 1:11-12**

 11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

* Jesus gave Paul direct revelation [an uncovering or an unveiling] of a secret weapon from the arsenal of God—Love.
* This love that Christ spoke of in Luke 6:27-36does not refer to human emotions—This is a supernatural love that comes only from the Holy Spirit

 John 13:34-35 (NIV)

 34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

Paul gives us 6 basic down-to-earth ways we can make Jesus attractive to unbelievers:

**Romans 12:15-21 (NIV)**

 **#1 Ask God to Bless Those Who Do You Wrong**

 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

 **#2 Share other’s Joy and Grief**

 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

 **#3 Be friendly with Everyone**

 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to

 associate with people of low positions. Do not be conceited.

 **#4 Don't Mistreat Someone Who Has Mistreated You.**

 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the

 eyes of everyone.

 **#5 Do Your Best To Live At Peace With Everyone.**

 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with

 everyone.

 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath,

 for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

 20 On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty,

 give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on

 his head.”

 **#6 Don't Let Evil Defeat You**

 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.