

GOD'S TRANQUILLIZER

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Introduction: It seems today that times are so hard on people that they need a "pill" to help adjust to the pressures of life. There are anti-depression pills, anti-acid pills, anti-hunger pills, sleep-aid pills, anti-wake pills, anti-appetite pills, anti-thin pills, pills to slow you down, pills to speed you up. There are numberless tranquillizers of all sorts for all kinds of uses. We are a pill taking generation of people. However, God has a single "tranquillizer" that will enable His Children to face and handle just about every situation they will face in life.

I. GOD'S TRANQUILLIZER IS - LOVE

1. There is "eros" or physical love. Then there is "philos" or human, personal, people love. There is "agape" or God's kind of love which is new to people for it has no strings and is totally freely given.

II. LOVE WILL NOT DO SOME THINGS

1. Love will not be jealous. John the Baptist never became jealous of Jesus but his followers did.
2. Love will not be prideful. It won't be like the Pharisee who was thankful he was not like the publican, a "nobody..."
3. Love will not be selfish. It won't be like Annanias and Sapphira who were stingy in their giving and then lied about it.
4. Love will not be bitter. It won't be like the Jewish leaders who hated Jesus but it will be like Joseph who never hated his brothers for what they did to him.
5. Love will not hold grudges. It will forgive and forget and not hold on to bad memories.
6. Love will not seek revenge. It will turn the other cheek as did many of the early Christians, like Paul did so often who never uttered a word of condemnation against those who mistreated him and his partners in the Lord.
7. Love will not keep records. It will forgive 70x7, as Jesus taught and it will not seek favors for repayment of something done for others.
8. Love will never give up. It will do all it can do for the sake of others never giving up in it's efforts to help others, especially to come to know the Lord Jesus.
9. Love will never count the cost. It will give all it has and then even more, such as one's life if necessary.

10. Love will never die. It will keep on loving in spite of all opposition or unrecognition.

III. LOVE WILL DO SOME THINGS

1. Love will be patient. It will understand, let God work things out and not interfere.
2. Love will go the second mile. Whether it is a law or not, love will go beyond what normally is required or needed.
3. Love will always forgive. Stephen forgave those who were stoning him to death and Jesus forgave those who had crucified Him.
4. Love will see and hope for the best. It will see that even one's enemies are loved by God and that they can be used by God if they can come to Jesus.
5. Love can replace fear. It will help bring a total dependence on God instead of one's own self.
6. Love can bear burdens of others. It shares sorrows, anxieties and shows genuine concern.
7. Love puts up with the weaknesses and faults of others, overlooking them.
8. Love helps, regardless of what is heard, or who the person is or what the situation is.
9. Love deadens pain. Jesus' love for others enabled Him to endure the pain on the Cross. The Christian martyrs through the ages endured what they did because they loved even those who were inflicting their pain.
10. Love heals the broken hearts, lives, relations of others.

III. LOVE IS A GIFT FROM GOD

1. *"...Everyone that loveth is born of God.." (1 John 4:7)*
2. *"...God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love.." (2 Timothy 1:7)*
3. *"...But the fruit of the Spirit is love..." (Galatians 5:22)*
4. *"...Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God..." (1 John 4:7)*
5. Every believer in Jesus, has this God given gift of LOVE.
6. This gift must be cultivated to help and that comes with living as Jesus wants.
7. Using this gift as God wants is proof that one is truly born again.

CONCLUSION:

1. Love is the Christian's way of life.
2. Christians have two natures: the natural, human way, which is filled with hate and the spiritual way, which is God's way and it is filled with love.
3. Love will do away with the need for man made aids and "cures."
4. So, Christian, will you love? Will you put self out of the way for others? Will you open your life to others as God wants you to do?
5. If you have a problem, LOVE is the answer.