

LIFE Huddle: *Getting together to talk through issues of life*

Living a Life of Love

I Corinthians 13:4 tells us that *“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and love keeps no record of being wronged. Love does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, love is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”*

So, this is your reality: You're competitive, you're driven, you've got goals you want to accomplish. There's absolutely nothing wrong with any of those things. But how can you be those things and at the same time still live a life of love by being concerned about the good of others, especially when those others include your rivals?

Three ways to live a life of love:

1. Gladly acknowledge that all you have (*i.e. your talents, your resources, your influence, your status, your position, your EVERYTHING*) is merely a free gift God has granted you. Remember, you don't deserve your gifts, and God owes you nothing. The crazy thing about it is that even though God owes us absolutely nothing, He's given us absolutely everything in Christ.
2. Be done with measuring your self-worth by your superiority or inferiority to others.
3. Use what you've been given to serve other people. Take the very things that elevate you above them and use those things to go down under them and lift them up.

For many people, the idea of applying these three ideas seems impossible. If that's what you think, my question to you would be: ***do you think you could win this battle for one day?*** That's all I'm asking you to do...focus on living a life of love for just one day. Don't worry about tomorrow (*see Matthew 6:34*). Don't focus on next week, next month or even next year. Leverage today's victory that it might carry you into tomorrow. You can minimize the losing streaks of not living a life of love by not letting bad days turn into bad weeks, bad months or bad years.

P2R (Point 2 Remember): *If you are better at something than someone else, God made you better.* And His reasons for doing so are not so that you can strut around in a prideful, boasting manner. If you are wise or strong or rich, you will only be pleasing to the Father and useful to others, if you cease to boast in the wisdom and the strength and the riches He's bestowed on you. Instead, you are to value God more than you value your superiority, in any particular competency.

Practical Application: Re-read I Corinthians 13:4, and replace the word “love” with your name. When you hear your name in that verse, it should awaken you to the reality that you are capable of living a life of love. In hearing your name in that verse & personalizing this scripture, how might God be speaking to you?