



# **Course Leader's Manual**

**For**

**The Gift To Serve**

Presented By:

**Repairer of the Breach Ministries**

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# 1 Introduction

One of the greatest seeds for harvest is the gift to serve wherever you are planted in the vineyard.

Seed, plant, and nourishment produces a fruitful harvest

The Foundation text for this series is taken from Philippians 2

## 1.1 The first steps

Let's begin our journey in search of wisdom and Godly instruction for practical daily application.

The first thing we notice in verse 1 and repeated in verse 2 is the word love. This word from its original text is a love that comes directly from God.

The agape love is only found in revealed religion, it is benevolent love. This unselfish love type of love is how God provides for mankind's needs as seen fit and not necessarily human desires.

In comparison to the agape love there is phileo love, which is a brotherly type of love, derived from common interests.

The agape love is derived and a characteristic of God. This kind of love suffers long, and is kind. It is not jealous, boastful, proud or rude. It doesn't demand its own way and is not irritable. It doesn't keep a record of wrong doings. This kind of love never gives up, or loses faith, its always hopeful and endures through every circumstance.

The first step on your journey is to ask for God's love to be poured into your heart for him. Then we can ask for that love to be extended to our neighbours. When we love God with everything we have, it becomes easier to do the things that please him.

It's easy to obey someone we love and respect because of the relationship we have developed.

## 1.2 Spend time

P\_\_\_\_\_

R\_\_\_\_\_ the Bible

F\_\_\_\_\_

With other B\_\_\_\_\_

As we do these things God will speak to us through various circumstances.

How does God Speak to you?

(A scripture, a song, prayer time, the small still voice or dreams- these are a few but there are many more).

Verse 2

The goal or objective is shown to be unity.

How can this be achieved?

- 1) Love
- 2) Humility
- 3) Selflessness

Verse 3

Identity

How important is what others think of you?

This needs to be balanced with what the truth of God's word states about you as a believer. The most important opinion must be that of the creator, Christ Jesus.

Often as children of God we still have a strong desire to accomplish our own plans and therefore pursue our own will. This is not God's plan for humanity; he wants all our desires to be contained within him.

Ask your self these questions

- 1) Does your career or Job title define who you are?
- 2) If you didn't have a position your local church, could you still attend?
- 3) If you lost the position you hold at work or church, could you still serve the Lord with joy?

When our desires our God given we have peace and become the people God created us to be.

(For I know the plans I have for you, says the lord...plans to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11)

God's truth+ my truth/reality = A healthy balance.

## 2 Story

Jane believed that all her life she had always trusted the wrong people, she was always let down over and over again. Her own parents had said she wouldn't amount to much; her self worth was at rock bottom. She attended church religiously, the only problem was she still wasn't quite sure why Jesus would love her, and it just didn't seem to be possible after all her own parents couldn't stand the sight of her.

As Jane read her bible one day she stumbled on a scripture that said "she was fearfully and wonderfully made", tears began to stream uncontrollably down her chocolate brown skin, her heart began to feel a warm strange sensation she hadn't felt before.

She felt confused and yet expectant, something was happening even if she wasn't to sure what it was. That one verse seemed to challenge her whole thought process of who she really was.

She remembered the pastor had preached a sermon on the love of Christ the week before, she began to ponder what all this meant, the words "Jesus loves you" echoed in her mind followed by a short pain in her heart. She whispered the words " Jesus I love you to", she hadn't even thought of it what was she saying. Just then in that small room she called home, she was released from years of guilt, shame and resentment.

Jane had accepted God's words over her circumstances. Something had been lifted from her. Jane knew her life had changed for the better.

### 3 Christ's Humility

“ whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26-28)

What is a servant?

What can a servant do by himself or herself?

Does a servant receive praise/glory?

Definition of a servant.

Servant hood means serving wherever and however the master chooses!

Christ the perfect servant

He took on the form of a servant.

He submitted to the will of the father.

He understood he was created to positively affect the lives of others.

He humbled himself to death on the cross.

How do you affect others positively in your daily life?

### 4 Obedience

Linked to submission

Read: 1 Samuel 15

Key: verse 22

And Samuel said, hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken than the fat of rams.

Submission is defined as the action or fact of submitting according to the oxford dictionary.

Submission begins through the process of the mind but is executed through a heart that is in tune with the Father's voice.

The willingness to submit is a key to success in ministry.

Who are you in submission to?

God/employer/pastor/parents

Submission is visible within leadership or other areas of life. An example of this is the employee who says yes to a task and then purposely becomes unavailable, irritable and challenges every process of the employer.

## 4.1 Authority

All authority comes from God. However some people misuse it.

A clear example of this is recorded in Jude verse 9, when Michael the archangel was disputing with the Devil about Moses body, Michael says “the Lord rebuke thee”.

The Devil himself is not more powerful than Michael but would appear to hold the same rank in spiritual authority. Therefore Michael points the devil to the higher authority over them God himself.

Paul points out that the Christians were to respect the Roman emperors; because of the authority God gave them, even though he disapproved of their abuse of it.

Peter urged recognition of legitimate authority in the home, the state and elsewhere (1 Peter 3 1-7, 13-17) even when it was being misused.

It is important to submit to Godly men and women that God has ordained who “watch for your souls”. (Hebrews 13 v 7)

## 4.2 God’s heart for prayer

Let’s pray.

Heavenly Father I come before you in adoration and humility, acknowledging your sovereignty as Lord. In Jesus name I ask you to mould me and give me a heart submitted to your divine will and purpose. Show me how to love you with all my mind, strength and whole being. Direct and lead me to fulfil the purpose for which you created me each day. I recognise my human weakness and ask for grace and mercy to keep me throughout each day. Help me to submit to the Godly authorities you have placed over my life. Let any darkness in my life be penetrated by your light. Give me a love and burden for the things of God. I pray to be fruitful in every good work and a faithful steward of all you have entrusted to me. Thank you for calling me according to your purpose before time began; I give you the glory, honour and praise. I commit myself to the foot of Calvary’s cross.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

## 5 The Master Potter

Read: 2 Timothy 20-21

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of Gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

Vessels of honour represent who the master is.

In a palace or stately home the most exquisite vessels are displayed in a prime location (cabinet/fireplace) for all to view and admire. They represent the master's fine attention to detail and show the type of man he is.

Also in a great house there are common vessels, which are usually kept in a cupboard under the sink out of public view. The master uses them for everyday common purposes to the family. These common vessels look pretty much the same and are easily replaced. They do have their use though, you hardly be likely to have a bedtime drink using your finest vessel.

To become a vessel of honour there is a process of rigorous refining and testing, immense pressure is applied to these vessels.

The master potter spends vast amounts of time fashioning and creating each masterpiece.

The vessels of honour are highly valuable within the kingdom and are therefore maintained through his standards of cleanliness (holiness), they are separated (sanctification) and useful for any situation. They are trusted to produce maximum glory and adoration for the master, Jesus Christ.

## 6 Conclusion - Feeling we're being "burned" by life

Malachi 3:3 says:

"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest! as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says:

"He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it"

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

"Life is a coin. You can spend it anyway you wish, but you can only spend it once

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