

**“Relation-shifts”**  
March 17, 2013

**CORE VALUE #5- “We live together in long-term relationships of honesty and honor, encouraging one another to become all we can be in Christ.”**

**Ephesians 4:1-13 (NIV)**

- **“A prisoner IN the Lord”- He has captured my heart!**
- **“I URGE you”- an urgent word that imparts courage & strength (i.e., “You can SO do this...”) “You CAN!” rather than “You’d better do this!”**
- **“WALK WORTHY”- “Worthy”- equivalent to; i.e., weight scale**
  - **On one side:** “Great love lavished on us” (1 John 3:1)
  - **On the other side:** Live as those greatly loved!!!
  - **“Glory”= “weight”**
  - **Knowing Him as the “weightiest” dynamic; most significant One**

**PROP- Out of this place of being continually loved (“walking worthy”) we build relationships that are healthy and maturing (v. 13).**

**NOTE: His “glory” enables us to “be one” (John 17:22).**

**NOTE: He supplies the love we share with one another. (NOTE: Holy Spirit “sheds abroad” His love in our hearts- Romans 5:5; Lit.- “a gusher poured forth”)**

**These 4 words describe the TANGIBLE EXPRESSIONS OF HIS LOVE:**

**1. HUMBLE**

- **“False humility”- don’t think much of yourself (i.e., “walking worthless”)**
- **“True humility”- so secure—you don’t think of yourself much**
- **“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4) “Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead.” (The Message)**
- **HUMBLE LOVE makes people feel SEEN, HEARD, & VALUED.**

**2. MEEK**

- **“Meek” is not “weak”; it means “great strength under control”**
- **“Easily entreated” (James 3:17); approachable, willing to listen.**
- **NOT controlling, intimidating, manipulating or overbearing.**
- **The nature of God: “He’s giving everyone space and time to change.” (2 Peter 3:9 The Message)**

- When we love with MEEKNESS, people experience FREEDOM, not CONTROL.

### 3. LONGSUFFERING (Patience)

- Able to “suffer long”; not easily discouraged
- Hard to offend
- Able to “let go of offenses”
- The kind of love that “never fails” (1 Cor. 13:8); doesn’t quit! (*Lit.- “to lose it”*)
- PATIENT LOVE ministers commitment & devotion. This kind of love casts out the fear of abandonment. It shouts: “I will not give up on you!
- People feel BELIEVED IN.

### 4. BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- Two root words:
  - 1<sup>st</sup>- “*in the middle of; among*”
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>- “*with intensity*”
- NOT prone to withdraw from (when things don’t go our way)
- Lit.- “devoted to brotherly affection for the long haul” (*leaning toward*)
- Willingness to adjust & adapt to the differences in one another
- “Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] *and* give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself *or* be wise in your own conceits.” (Romans 12:16 Amplified)
- When we BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, people experience FLEXIBILITY. (*Release from the tension of always having to please us*)

### SUMMARY

“In light of all this, here’s what I want you to do. While I’m locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don’t want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don’t want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences. You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness...until we’re all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God’s Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.” (Ephesians 4:1-6,13 The Message)