

FINISH LINE

Week #6 – Love Lost

II Timothy 3:1 – 5 (NKJV) *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ UNLOVING, UNFORGIVING, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of god, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power...*

UNLOVING

- *Astorgos (Greek) – is a combination of the Greek negative prefix “a” (not, or without) plus the root storge, meaning family love. So, it literally means a LACK OF FAMILY LOVE in the last days.*
- **Storge is one of four Greek words that are translated as LOVE:**
 1. **Agape** – Unconditional love that brings forth caring regardless of the circumstances. It is a sacrificial love that is more than a feeling – but an act of the will. Jesus was agape personified.
 2. **Eros** – passionate love, with sensual desire and longing. Romantic, pure emotion without the balance of logic – “Love at first sight” that often leads to a matured eros of “being in love.”
 3. **Phileo** – the love between friends who share a common interest or activity; it involves affectionate regard, with give and take. The love of best friends who seek to make one another happy. (i.e. Philadelphia – the city of brotherly love).
 4. **Storge** – fondness through familiarity, especially between family members. This affection is present in family-like relationships without coercion, and it pays the least attention to the characteristics deemed “worthy of love.” Because this affection has the appearance of being “built-in or ready-made,” people come to expect it irrespective of their behavior or the consequences of their behavior.

Matthew 24:12 (NCV) – *There will be more and more evil in the world, so most people will stop showing their love for each other.*

I Timothy 5:8 (NLT) – *But those who won't care for their own relatives, especially those living in the same household, have denied what we believe. Such people are worse than unbelievers.*

- Doing family can be hard.
- **How Can We Learn to Do Family Well?**
 1. **Lose the Sense of Entitlement**
 2. **Establish Healthy Boundaries**
 3. **Work to Maintain Commonality**
 4. **Intentional Availability**
 5. **Commitment to Honesty**

UNFORGIVING

- *Aspondos – without a treaty or covenant; unable to be appeased or drawn into a truce; unforgiving.*
- The last days will be marked by a culture that will not end the feud, no matter what a person does.

- **QUOTE:** *The last days will be marked by people who WANT TO BE OFFENDED, because are addicted to the drama of crisis.*

So, what do we do?

- 1. Make a Commitment to Forgive and Be Humble Enough to Ask for Forgiveness.**
 - **Mark 11:25 (AMPC)** – *And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and [g]let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.*
 - Don't wait til it's too late before you let go of unforgiveness that has gripped your heart.
 - Forgiveness is as much for us as it is for the other person.
 - **QUOTE:** *Living with unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. It kills you!!*
- 2. Become Ok Moving on From People Who Have No Desire to End a Feud.**
 - **Romans 12:17, 18 (GNT)** – *If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. ¹⁸ Do everything possible ON YOUR PART to live in peace with everybody.*
 - **QUOTE:** *It takes two to reconcile a relationship. You can't do both parts.*