

HANDLE WITH CARE Part 7 - Love and Dating (Continued)

Scripture used: [John 15:12 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In this seventh sermon in the Handle With Care series, Pastor Hurmon continued to focus on love and dating. Last week, Pastor Hurmon broke the “finding the right person” myth: that once we find the right person, our life will improve dramatically and all our insecurities will vanish. This myth has the toxic effect of granting us the freedom to act in any way we want until we find the right person. Instead, we first must become the person that the person we’re looking for is looking for. If we are partnered, we have to become the person worth staying with.

KEY POINTS

- 1) Following Jesus makes us better at life. [Matthew 4:19 \(NLT\)](#) shows Jesus calling the disciples to follow Him. Jesus is all about redeeming broken people and broken relationships. Jesus invites us to a new relational paradigm, one of Agape Love which is giving unconditionally, and exhibits self-sacrifice and accomodation. Again, the question is not: Am I falling in love with the right person? but: Am I becoming the right person?
- 2) [1 Corinthians 13:4 \(NIV\)](#) is an iconic text about love: love is patient and kind, and does not envy or boast. “Patient” means long-suffering, tenacious, and that which does not pressure. “Kind” is humility and vulnerability. Jesus Himself was deeply humble ([Philippians 2:8 \(NLT\)](#)). A mark of character is how we treat others, particularly our attitude to people we perceive to be beneath us. Are we easily offended or, on the contrary, called to help and serve?
- 3) We must separate the “must-haves” from the “nice-to-haves”. Age, rank, romantic chemistry only matter so much. Finding a mate who is honest and teachable matters more. We need to be the person who asks: What can I do to bring you joy? Agape love is not covetous of what others have; it does not parade itself, but inspires and emulates; it is not inflated; and it is not self-centered and self-consumed.
- 4) Instead, we must react to the success of the people around us by shining the light onto them and honoring them - never by stealing their spotlight and pouring water on their rejoicing. Don’t be selfish or impatient, and try to think of others as better than yourself.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Discern your heart. How close are you to embracing the new relational paradigm espoused by Jesus?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Write down where you have work to do in terms of patience, kindness, public celebration of others, and honoring others. If you’re having dinner with your favorite celebrity, what would you remind yourself not to say or do, which you have a regrettable tendency to often say or do?
- 3) **DO** - Find some concrete ways to incorporate those lessons into your dating life or marriage. Read 1 [Corinthians 13:4-7 \(NIV\)](#) each day this week in preparation for next week’s sermon.