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2

John 13 (ESV)

31 When he [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. **32** If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. **33** Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

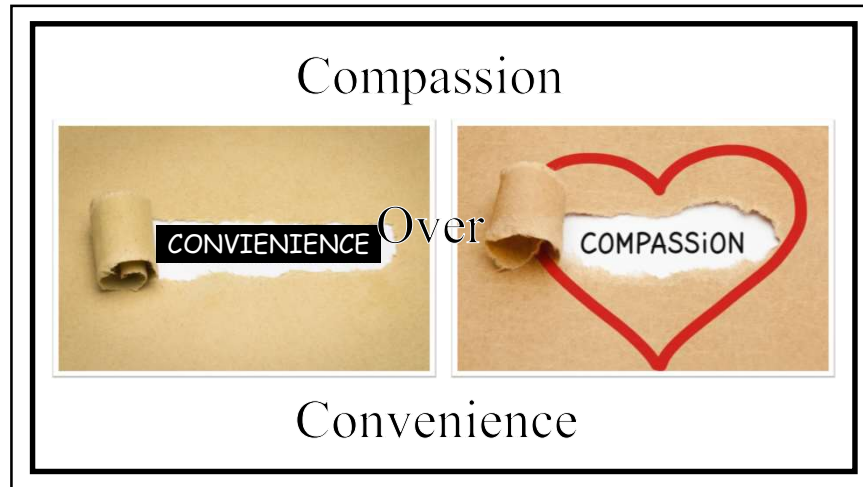
3

Theme

Christlike love becomes a habit when presence becomes ministry.

- This theme emphasizes that caregivers do not love only through emotions or energy, they love through showing up, staying present & reflecting Jesus' heart in ordinary moments of care.
- Presence becomes a spiritual practice & God forms Christlike love in the caregiver through repeated, faithful acts.

4



5

Compassion Over Convenience
• Love in caregiving is rarely convenient. • It often shows up when we are tired, stretched, or emotionally drained. • Scripture reminds us that love is not passive - It is a choice empowered by God. • Caregiving requires patience when routines fall apart, kindness when confusion rises & endurance when the day feels long. (1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

6

Compassion Over Convenience
• Biblical love keeps showing up even when it costs something. • Dementia brings moments of hurtful words, resistance, or frustration. • Love forgives quickly - Quick forgiveness protects our heart & keeps resentment from taking root. <i>13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Col. 3:13 ESV)</i>

7

Compassion Over Convenience
• Love listens fully - Listening becomes a sacred act when words are few or unclear. <i>19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; (James 1:19 ESV)</i>

8

Compassion Over Convenience

- Love serves quietly - Much of caregiving is unseen (changing clothes, preparing meals, calming fears.)
- God sees every quiet act of service

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13 ESV)

9

Compassion Over Convenience

- Love prays for those who hurt us - When caregiving wounds our heart, prayer softens the pain & keeps love alive.

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (Matthew 5:44 ESV)

- Compassion is not a feeling - it is a Christlike decision to respond gently even when circumstances are hard.
- Every small act becomes a testimony of God's love working through us.

10

Love honors the dignity of the person



11

Love Honors The Dignity Of The Person

- Dementia changes abilities, but it never changes identity.
- Caregiving becomes holy when we treat our loved one as God sees them.
- Every person bears God's image.
- Our value is not based on memory, mobility, or mood - Our worth is rooted in God's design.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27 ESV)

12

Love Honors The Dignity Of The Person

- Dementia does not erase personhood.
- Even when our loved one forgets names or stories, their soul remains intact.
- They are still the same beloved person.
- Touch, tone & tenderness communicate worth.
- A gentle hand, a soft voice, or a warm smile can calm fear & restore dignity.

13

Love Honors The Dignity Of The Person

- Love protects the vulnerable - We become our loved one's advocate, voice & shield.
- This is Christlike work.

***8 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.
(Proverbs 31:8-9 ESV)***

14

Love Honors The Dignity Of The Person

- Love remembers who our loved one was and who they still are.
- Their history matters, but so does their present.
- God is still writing their story.
- Honoring dignity means seeing beyond the disease & recognizing the sacredness of the person in front of you.
- Love slows down, notices & affirms.

15

**Love is Sustained By God
Not Human Strength**

16

Love is Sustained by God, Not Human Strength

- As caregivers we often feel empty, but God never asks us to love from our own limited supply.
- He fills, renews & strengthens Us daily.
- God pours His love into our heart.
- We are not loving alone - The Holy Spirit fuels our compassion.

5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5 ESV)

17

Love is Sustained by God, Not Human Strength

- Jesus' love becomes the motivation behind our care - not guilt, duty, or pressure.

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; (2 Corinthians 5:14 ESV)

18

Love is Sustained by God, Not Human Strength

- Love grows through abiding - Staying connected to Jesus through prayer, Scripture & worship keeps our heart soft & steady.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5 ESV)

19

Love is Sustained by God, Not Human Strength

- Love is a command, not a feeling.
- God calls us to love even when emotions fluctuate.
- Obedience opens the door for His strength.

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (John 13:34 ESV)

20

Love is Sustained by God, Not Human Strength

- God's love never runs out - When we feel empty, God's mercies refill us every morning.

***22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22–23 ESV)***

- We are not expected to carry this alone.
- God sustains the love we give & He replenishes what caregiving drains.

21

Discussion Questions

- What caregiving moments require the most love from you?
- How do you show love when you feel empty?
- What helps you remember your loved one's dignity on hard days?
- How has God shown love to you this week?
- What does it look like to "abide" in love during caregiving?

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