

for principles to be applied in exercising Spirit-produced love in team relationships.

Love seeks to meet the needs of others in a sacrificial way. Lev. 19:9-10 "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God." This has to do with meeting the needs of poor people, those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable to exploitation. It may seem that the passage has very remote significance for people working together in a team ministry. However, the principle implicit in this passage is that the person who loves does not look only to his own interests, "but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4).

It is very significant that this passage gives a clear illustration of what love does quite apart from feeling. It would be fitting if the farmer felt compassion for the people he provided for, but such feelings are secondary. The important thing is doing what God says to do.

In Eph. 4:29 the Apostle Paul shows how this principle of meeting the needs of others carried over into the realm of interpersonal communication.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.