**Spiritual Simplicity Leader Guide**

**Session 4: Love Me Tender**

**How Does Love Respond to Difference?**

…. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

**1 Corinthians 13:4b-5**

Practice – Love chooses to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ differences and refuses to compare.

The Context – The two responses that are prohibited in this passage are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The Principle – Comparison always leads to carnality.

* Envy compares \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and produces jealousy, anger, resentment, and bitterness.
* Arrogance compares \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and produces pride, boasting, rudeness, and independence.

Envy compares and says, “I don’t matter very much.”

Arrogance compares and says, “You don’t matter very much.”

* The envious must believe that God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and has sovereignly and wisely given them what’s best and will fulfill his purposes.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

**Psalm 84:11**

Humility is the prerequisite for grace.

**Discussion Questions**

* When you were a kid growing up, did you struggle with lack of self-esteem? Were you the “golden child” who maybe had too much self-esteem? In those earlier years, where would you put yourself on the continuum for too little self-esteem to too much self-esteem?
* Chip said that event can cause us to get make bad choices, all in the name of getting ahead, providing for our kids, or keeping up appearances. How much is envy an issue for you? How can you keep from being sucked into the world’s pursuit of “more”?
* Chip said” when you compare, you’re going to be unloving”. How is it unloving to compare ourselves (either upwards or downwards) to others?
* Love Chooses to celebrate differences and refuses to compare. Take a few moments to celebrate the differences within your group. Share what you appreciate as strengths of others in the group that you don’t possess.

**Going Deeper**

* Psalm 84:11(NASB) says, “For The LORD God is a sun and shield;

The Lord gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**Psalm 84:11 (NASB)**

How does gratitude and the goodness of God help with in the struggle with envy and arrogance?

* If we struggle with pride, it can lead to a spirit of independence and a lack of accountability. To counteract that, we need to work at letting people into our lives. How well are you doing at letting people into your life and being accountable? What are the barriers to letting people in?
* Chip said that pride will lead to insensitivity. What are some practical ways that you can be more sensitive to those around you? How can you keep from judging or looking down on people?