

HOW TO WIN THE LOVE OF OTHERS

References :

Virtues, by H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Notes for Servants :

Objectives :

General: Practical steps and conditions to earn the love of other people.

Specific:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Instructions:

1. Review last week's lesson.
2. Give a brief description about the church occasion(s) for the coming week.

Bible Verse:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.@

(Matt 19:19)

Lesson :

How to Win the Love of Others

There are important rules that you have to follow in order to win the love of people. We shall try to deal with some of these rules:

1. As a means of winning people's love, you should be a loving person. You love people regardless their social status, job, or riches. You love them because you love God and the result is that you love all people through your love to God or as reflection of His love to you.

2. You should respect everybody even those who are younger than you are, or those who have a lower position than yours. Many people respect those who are older than themselves, or those who have a higher position, but they ignore those who have lower positions, and thus they lose much. As for you, you should train yourself to respect all people. You should not say anything that depreciates or hurts the feelings of others. Do not treat anybody with lack of respect or with contempt, and do not ignore anyone however unimportant he may be. Train yourself to use expressions of esteem regarding your sons, younger brothers, employees, or servants. Do not talk to

anybody while you are frowning or looking stern, except when it is necessary for the benefit of others; otherwise you should be courteous. Talk to other people politely and courteously and do not wear a long face.

3. If you wish to win the love of others, do not chide or rebuke them too much. A harsh word hurts feelings and annoys others. A harsh word may destroy love; therefore, do not take to chiding too much. If you want to rebuke or advise someone, let this be with calmness and gentleness, and without any rudeness. Do not let others feel that you hate them, by your repeated scolding. If you want to reproach someone, let your reproach be preceded by an expression of appreciation, a word of praise or a gentle introduction, to create an atmosphere that makes the reproach acceptable, or at least select your words so that the reproach may not hurt their feelings.

4. If you want others to love you, defend them and praise them. The poor fellow who finds all people against him, will have a very sensitive heart. If this person finds somebody to defend him, he will grant his defender all his heart. Therefore, defend other people, especially those whom you find in trouble or those who are oppressed or in need of protection. In your dealings with people, remember their good deeds, and forget their evil ones, and be sure that however dark a man's life may be, you will find some aspects of virtue in it. Praise those aspects and make them prominent and show that you know them and that you appreciate them.

5. If you want other people to love you, you should be a virtuous human being endowed with all the qualities liked by them. Do not imagine that people love in vain, or without anything in return for their love. They love the holy, courageous, successful and intelligent person. Try to have fine qualities; then people will love you because of those qualities. Therefore, if you wish other people to love you, you should redress yourself first.

6. If you want other people to love you, you should be forbearing with them. Do not take vengeance for yourself and do not do evil in return for evil. Do not be angry with the one who does evil to you. Every human being has his weaknesses; you should endure the weaknesses of others. Do not become annoyed quickly and do not lose people's friendship because of their errors. Forgive anyone who does wrong to you, and when he thinks over his mistake and remembers your forbearance, his love to you will increase. Even those who do not repent, their friendship should not be relinquished. Remember the statement of John of the Golden Mouth: "Do not make an enemy of the person whose friendship you have been unable to win."

7. If you want people to love you, you should be sincere to them, and be prudent in your sincerity. Treat people with all sincerity. Be careful lest your love should do them harm. Let your love be in wisdom. Make use of praise, but do not resort to flattery or hypocrisy. Be sympathetic, but keep away from indulging too much. Be sincere in your love to other people, and let your aim be their interest and not merely to gain their love.

8. Try to keep in mind that to win the love of people you must make some sacrifices. You should try not to hurt the feelings of anybody but to win everybody, for the Bible says, "The winner of souls is a wise man." If you realize that someone is annoyed with you, let not your heart be calm until you make him content. Let everybody love you. As the Bible says, "If possible so far as it lies with you, live at peace with all men." Therefore, you should offer people your love and win their love, and consider that the love of people is a valuable treasure which you should preserve.

May God, the Lover, infuse His love into our hearts so that we may all love one another, as He has loved us in His great big heart.

Conclusion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.