



PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

BIBLICAL NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS

May 2021

2 Samuel • 1 Chronicles • Psalms

The Principle of Unconditional Love

OVERVIEW

In second Samuel we see the transition of power from King Saul to David after the death of Saul and his son, Jonathan, David's beloved friend. Israel is still under the rule of a monarchy; but this King David, is a man after God's own heart according to Scripture in 1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22.

“And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.” (Acts 13:22)

Because David had the right heart and a proper attitude toward God, God could use David mightily; and establish the Davidic Kingdom forever ... so the Messiah could come in the future from David's lineage. As we know from Scripture, David was not a perfect man; but he loved God and had the right heart. He was always willing to repent when he sinned.

Using the Books of 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles and some Psalms, we will continue to talk about the biblical character David, as we examine the **Principle of Unconditional Love**.

The **Principle of Unconditional Love** is God's plan to keep us from failing. The AMPC Bible gives one a very good description of unconditional love—I Corinthians 13:4–8a. The paradigm (pattern) of this principle is to help one develop a proper attitude because our attitude reveals the condition of our heart—for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 15:28–30). By functioning in this principle one can have good success with God and man—be a winner/conqueror. In essence one can have victory over evil circumstances. This is God's divine principle for success as indicated in I Corinthians 4:8a, *“love never fails.”* However, for one's love not to fail, that which one is committed to must be infallible, dependable, and unchanging and only God's Word meets these attributes or standards.

Notes on 2 Samuel

Although the Book of 2 Samuel deals mainly with the reign of David, its significance is in the Messianic prophecy that is found in chapter seven.

READ CHAPTER 7

This prophecy comes in the form of a covenant God made with David. This covenant is very important because the terms of the covenant affects the history of mankind—especially that which is yet to come, the future. The prophecy is one of the keys to the divine plan of history. The Jews have always believed that the Messiah must come from David’s lineage, and the prophets of old affirm this. We see the prophecy in such passages as Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5; Ezekiel 37:25; and in Luke 1:32–33 where God sent the angel, Gabriel, to Mary to proclaim these words.

*“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord **God** will give Him the throne of His father **David**. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end”* (Luke 1:32–33)

As Christians, we await His return to rule the earth from the New Jerusalem which is the city that David captured from the Jebusites and renamed it Jerusalem. He made it the capital of Israel. Jerusalem is also called the city of David and Zion where the Lord lives. Psalm 132 really expresses this as the “Eternal Dwelling of God.”

The Book of 2 Samuel can be divided into two or three parts. However, for a clearer understanding, 2 Samuel will be divided into three parts:

1. The Triumph of David — (Chapters 1–10)
2. The Transgression of David — (Chapter 11)
3. The Troubles/Trials of David — (Chapters 12–24)

David rises to power after Saul’s death and is anointed king, by the tribe of Judah in Hebron. After several years of rivalry between David’s kingdom and Saul’s house, David is anointed king over all Israel. He had been king in Judah for seven years. During David’s triumphant years, he accomplished several things:

1. He united the nation of Israel
2. He made the city of Jerusalem the capital
3. He defeated the Philistines twice. They were no longer a treat to Israel
4. He brought back the “Ark of the Covenant”

By David being a shepherd boy, he understood how to look after God’s people. He didn’t become an unkind or cruel king until in chapter 11 where he transgresses and commits the sin of adultery and then have Uriah, the Hittite, a Black warrior, one of the mighty 30 men killed. After the transgression, David’s fame begins to fade and the sword never leaves his house. He has trouble after trouble because of the transgression, even though God forgave David ... there were consequences.

Remember the wages of sin is death.

Something dies in our lives when we sin, even though God puts our sins as far as the east from the west ... there are still consequences. Therefore, we should avoid sin at all cost.

The third part of 2 Samuel deals with all of David's troubles:

1. Death of his and Bathsheba's first child ... son
2. Ammon, his son, rapes his sister, Tamar
3. Absalom's revenge—he kills Ammon
4. Absalom's rebellion
5. Absalom's death
6. Plague on Israel

Through all David's tragedy, God still kept his covenant with him that He established in chapter seven.

Some may ask the question “Why?”

I believe, the **Principle of Unconditional Love** can shed some light on why God chose David's lineage for the Messiah to come from. As I stated earlier, this is a proper-attitude building principle. David had the right/proper attitude.

Attitude is the position or posture (negative/positive) that one chooses in connection to how he/she feels, thinks, or acts—it reflects the condition of your heart.

A proper attitude means that one must first love God according to Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4–5 and Matthew 22:37–40:

“Hear, O Israel: ^[a]The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”
(Deuteronomy 6:4–5)

“Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37–40)

David had the proper attitude toward God; David was the apple of God's eye and a man after God's own heart according to Scripture. He loved God and God loved David.

The Bible gives one a very good description of unconditional love (agape) in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a (AMPC):

⁴Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

⁵It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

⁶ *It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.*

⁷ *Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].*

⁸ *Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (^{1a}*the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose*), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].”*

There are about nine traits or facets of love that we see in this definition. David adhered to these traits/facets of love; therefore, God could use him mightily in His divine plan for mankind. Let’s examine these traits/facets.

Remember this ... Love displays itself in practical ways.

1. Love is patient

Love is seen as we are patient with one another. Patience helps us become spiritually mature Christians. Patience undergirds our faith. The patient person is longsuffering—not complaining or murmuring.

“But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.” (James 1:4)

In 2 Samuel we see that David was very patient because he was anointed to be king at the age of 17 years old; however, it took him 13 years before he actually began to reign as king. First, just over Judah for seven years then later he was anointed king over all Israel.

He allowed patience to have its perfect work and he endured much hardship in those 13 years ... on the run for his life. It was during these times that David penned many of the Psalms.

2. Love is not envious or jealous

Proverbs 14:30 says *“envy, jealousy and wrath are like rottenness of the bones.”*

We see that Saul’s enviousness and jealousy of David caused rottenness to the bones in Saul. Saul became irrational—plotting to kill David for no reason—just sheer envy and jealousy.

3. Love is not proud or boastful

Love does not think more highly of itself than it should. We see this when David is leaving the palace—escaping from Absalom and Shimei curses him.

⁵ As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. ⁶ He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. ⁷ As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! ⁸ The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!"

⁹ Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."

¹⁰ But the king said, "What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

¹¹ David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. ¹² It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today." (2 Samuel 16:5–14)

David never lost his first love, the Lord, even though he sinned many times; he would always seek repentance from God by acknowledging his transgression—Psalms 32 and 51. Therefore, God showed David compassion and mercy. And David showed mercy and compassion to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, and brought him back from Lo-debar. Love is always reaching—looking for ways to be a blessing, to serve.

4. Love is not rude or unmannerly

As believers we need to practice good manners and be polite and courteous—need to rid ourselves of bad habits which are unbecoming. Put on a behavior that is not RUDE.

5. Love is not self-seeking

I believe our cross is not poverty and a life filled with disaster, but living unselfishly—walking in LOVE is costly. **Being unselfish means, we are adaptable and adjustable to meet the needs of other.**

6. Love takes no account of a suffered wrong or evil—LOVE FORGIVES

In other words, love is not touchy or fretful or resentful. It pays not attention to a suffered wrong.

7. Love always believes the best of everyone

We see these traits exhibited in 2 Samuel 1:17–27 when David lamented about Saul’s and Jonathan’s death.

Let’s examine the song David wrote when he found out that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in war. This song gives us an indication of David’s heart and why God could say that David was a man after His own heart.

Remember out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

“Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher:” (2 Samuel 1:17–18)

David’s sorrow was sincere and deeply felt. Therefore, he penned a song to express the depth of his feeling.

The Song of the Bow (2 Samuel 1:19–27)

*“The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!
Tell it not in Gath,
Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.
O mountains of Gilboa,
Let there be no dew nor rain upon you,
Nor fields of offerings.
For the shield of the mighty is cast away there!
The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.
From the blood of the slain,
From the fat of the mighty,
The bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
And the sword of Saul did not return empty.
Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives,
And in their death they were not divided;
They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions.
O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury;
Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.
How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan was slain in your high places.
I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
You have been very pleasant to me;
Your love to me was wonderful,*

*Surpassing the love of women.
How the mighty have fallen,
And the weapons of war perished!”*

In this song, David shows his unconditional (agape) love and generosity in his heart towards Saul. It reveals that David didn't have malice in his heart toward Saul because on two occasions he could have killed Saul with the sword himself. Out of his love for God, he would not touch God's anointed one. David trusted God and he knew God had a great plan for his life because God had Samuel to anoint him when he was only 17 years old. God had shown David His faithfulness many times—when he killed the bear, lion and when David defeated Goliath.

Therefore, David saw and could acknowledge beauty in Saul. And He wanted no one to **rejoice** over the death of Saul. Therefore, he said,

*“Tell it not in Gath,
Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.”*

David wanted everyone—all his warriors to mourn, even the **mountains** and **fields**. He wanted the Daughters of Zion to weep,

“O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury.”

He praised Saul as a **mighty** warrior; for he said, *“How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!”*

He complimented the personality and loyalty of Saul because Saul started off well; but decided to please man rather than God—and didn't obey God which costed him the kingdom and an early death.

This song is a powerful testimony of how David kept his heart free from bitterness, even when he was greatly wronged ... he took no account of a suffered wrong. David fulfilled 1 Corinthians 13:5. David understood the principle of unconditional love; and walked in what the apostle Peter said, *“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”*

One theologian, Baldwin, said “Such a magnanimous attitude on the part of one who had suffered so much at Saul's hand is incomprehensible apart from a deep commitment to the Lord.” David was committed to God.

“I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan:” David's mourning for Jonathan expresses his phileo (love) for Jonathan, that brotherly love. Jonathan was David's best friend and they both had a love for God.

“Your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women:” this was not eros (love) but phileo (love). They had a deep, godly love (agape and phileo) for each other — but not a sexual love which is rare in the 21st century.

8. **Love doesn’t rejoice at injustices and unrighteousness.**

Love is grieved at injustice. It always wants what is fair and right. It craves justice especially for others.

Psalm 97:10 says that if we love the Lord, we must hate evil. Now, don’t hate evil people, just their evil ways.

9. **Love never fails**

Because God is love, He never fails; for nothing is impossible with God. So, when we embrace these nine facets of love—speaking the language of love, nothing will be impossible for us.

The key to loving others unconditionally is to understand and accept the differences between what they are doing and who they are. (Jeremiah 29:11)

David understood this—that’s why he would not touch God’s anointed one, Saul. He adhered to the nine facets of love—he spoke the language of love and nothing was impossible for him.

David had good success with God and man which is the plan/objective of the **Principle of Unconditional Love**. And he achieved the purpose: to have victory over evil circumstances—to be a winner/conqueror. David was victorious in battle, even when his own son Absalom and his top official Ahitophiel came against him. God confused the counsel of Ahitophiel and Absalom’s army was not able to defeat David. God restored David’s kingdom back to him.

And lastly, David had victory over the plague by praying and building an altar to the Lord where he offered up sacrifices. The sacrifices were acceptable to the Lord and He heard David’s prayers. The plague was withdrawn from Israel. That event ends the Book of 2 Samuel.

Conclusion

- By studying 2 Samuel we see the Power and Providence of God in working out His Kingdom Plan throughout human history. As others have often quoted, “History” is primarily “His Story.” Isaiah, the prophet, firmly believed that God is the “Lord of Israel History.”
- 2 Samuel encourages us that despite our failures and periods of walking outside of God’s will for our life, God is quick to forgive us, and able to restore us to fellowship and usefulness in His kingdom.
- 2 Samuel also reminds us that human government, even under the best leadership, a man heart after God’s own heart, cannot escape the painful consequences of sin and therefore we need God’s mercy and grace, to restore us. Thank God that His mercies are new every

morning and great is His faithfulness, even when we are not faithful, **because He loves us unconditionally.**

- 2 Samuel also encourages the heads of families to effectively nurture and discipline their children to avoid the painful consequences of sin and rebellion which wreak havoc in the home. David was an excellent shepherd, great warrior and for the most part a good king, but he was a poor father because he didn't discipline his children.

And most importantly, 2 Samuel points our attention to the Messiah and His Kingdom which will accomplish the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

What lesson can we learn as 21st century Christians from 2 Samuel?

When we are disobedient, God will discipline us; however, if we repent, He will restore us; and when we are in danger, God will deliver us, if we depend on Him and are devoted to Him—that is exalt and give praise of thanksgiving with the fruit of our lips to Him, like David.

Notes on Psalms 133, 32, 51, 55, 41, and 23

Psalms 133 was penned probably when David became king over all Israel.

Psalms 32 and 51 were penned after David's transgressions—his adultery with Bathsheba and then having Uriah killed in battle.

Psalms 55 and 41 were penned after Ahithophel conspired against David with Absalom, his son.

Psalms 23—most scholars believe David wrote this psalm during his latter reign as king because it is a very calming, comforting Psalm.

Notes on 1 Chronicles

Chronicle (noun) a narrative of events; a history; a record.

Chronicles is a divine editorial on the history of God's people.

The Book of 1 Chronicles can be divided into two parts:

1. The Royal line of David — (Chapters 1–9)
2. The Reign of David — (Chapters 10–29)

The Book of 1 Chronicles retraces the story of Israel's history up to the return from captivity from Babylon, giving the exile a "divine perspective" of their past. However, it is not just political history, but a history of the people's religion. It records how the people worshipped God, especially the worship that occurred at the "temple in Jerusalem."

Like 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles tells the story of David's life, but it omits the part that portrays David as a weak and morally flawed human being; whereas, 2 Samuel includes those parts. 1 Chronicles also add more details of the good things David did, like the preparation for building the temple.

It records that God gave David the blue print for the temple, just like God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle.

The author offers an interpretation of Israel's past that highlights their future (in a prophetic way). Both 1 and 2 Chronicles were designed to sustain the hopes and prayers of God's people as they wait for God to fulfill His promises.

REMEMBER THE PRAYER OF JABEZ FOUND IN 1 CHRONICLES 4:9–10:

⁹ Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez,^[a] saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." ¹⁰ Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

The Book of Chronicles gives us a commentary on the Hebrew Scriptures, as well as makes a theological statement. It brings hope and comfort to God's people, especially during a time when many wondered if God was ever going to fulfill His promises. The Chronicler retold the story of their collective past in order to rekindle hope for the future. In essence it is a journey through the entire Old Testament that makes crystal clear that the story isn't over. So, as we continue to read and ponder these retold stories in 1 and 2 Chronicles may we not get bored but reignite our own faith and hope as we await the return of the Messiah—our Savior, the true King.

Practical Application

1. Examine our hearts—proper attitude toward God and man
2. Exemplify the nine facets/traits of love
3. Enjoy the blessings of the Lord

PRAYER

Father, I thank You that we, Your children, have the proper attitude toward You and our fellow man; that we love You with all our heart, mind and strength; and we love our neighbor as ourselves. I pray we embrace the facets of love that is—speak the language of love; therefore, nothing is impossible to us. And may we enjoy Your blessings because You said in Your Word—You bestow favor and honor and no good thing will You withhold from those who walk blameless—upright before You, in Jesus' Name.