

people was not beyond them, they plotted to do away with Joe. Fortunately, they just sold him to some people from another country. Then they went home and lied about it.

With such experiences happening to Joe, you can probably imagine what a mess he turned out to be. So did he: (a) Become a serial killer? (b) Marry and divorce several times? (c) Become a druggie to try to dull the pain of his dysfunctional family? (d) Become second-in-command over his new country and rescue that country from a famine?

If you know the story of Joseph in Genesis, you caught that he was not a person who complained about his circumstances and got himself into trouble. No, Joseph continued to trust and obey God--and overcame his seriously flawed background.

What an example! We all have things in our past we can blame if our life blows out of control. We can say, "My dad was too harsh," or "My mom didn't take good care of me." But ultimately the only person responsible for us is us.

No matter what the circumstance, Joseph continued to depend on God and to do the right thing. He obeyed his father, and after he had been sent to Egypt he refused the advances of Potiphar's wife. As a result, "the Lord was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favour" (39:21).

Who'd want to be Joe? No one would want the trouble he had. But we should all want to be the kind of God-honouring person he became despite those troubles. Like Joseph, we need to do what is right--no matter what. --DB

REFLECTION

- What excuses do I sometimes use for making choices I know are not God-honouring?
- Is there anything in Joseph's family that is like mine? Does that give me an excuse to dishonour God with my actions?



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Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Information for Visitors.

* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.

* a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

Who'd Want To Be Joe?

Joe's family was a mess--a dysfunctional family. His father had 12 children by four different women--two of whom he was married to, and two of whom were the maids of one of his wives. In addition, Joe's dad had spent lots of years on the outs with Joe's uncle.

Joe's only sister was assaulted by an outsider, who had the nerve to turn around and ask if he could marry her. Some of her brothers were so angry that they killed the offending man and all his friends and relatives.

For Joe, who stayed out of that mess, the real problem came later when it was discovered that his father liked him more than all the other 11 bros. Since killing





Our Home

What is Love? The Final Word

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 describes 16 ways to love:

1. Love is _____, 1 Corinthians 13:4a



(Acts 7:60) "... Lord, do not charge them with this sin." ..."
(Luke 23:34) "... Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." ..."



2. Love is _____, 1 Corinthians 13:4b

(1 Peter 2:3) "... the Lord is gracious."
(Titus 3:4-5) "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, [5] not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,"
(Luke 6:35) "'But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil."



3. Love is _____, 1 Corinthians 13:4c



(Acts 7:9) "'And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him"

4. Love is _____, 1 Corinthians 13:4d

(Proverbs 7:10-13) "And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. [11] She was loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home. [12] At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner. [13] So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him:"

(Romans 5:8) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

