

Study of 1 Corinthians 13 – Feb. 9, 2022 – Week 2

Written by Paul, to the church. New Living Translation.

13:4-5 – “Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.”

This isn't for romantic love, it's Agape Love

This should be how we treat all people.

Love is who God is, He doesn't change based on who is before Him.

Our challenge is to be consistent, constant, & changeless.

1 – Patient.

- Background: Paul wrote to church in Corinth b/c of squabbles.
- Patient love is **persistent love**. It's like “For better or for worse”
- Patient love **chooses** to keep loving, supporting, & encouraging
 - Love while growing; evolving. All on a journey...
 - Love when it isn't easy. Patient love loves the unloveable.
 - Patient love allows others to be as imperfect as we are.
 - Keep loving when wronged or hurt; choose to love anyway.
- Patient love won't call it quits b/c you're tired, frustrated, or hurt.

2 – Kind.

- Kind is: to be helpful, sympathetic, and gentle.
- Kindness, like love, is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22 – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...).
- Love displays itself in kindness.
 - **Eph. 2:7** – God shows “the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”
 - Jesus was kind & gentle: **Matt. 21:5** – “See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey...”
- Kindness doesn't kick someone when they're down... be helpful.
- Kindness is our tone of voice; not taking frustration out on others.
- Kindness is doing considerate gestures, without complaining.

3 – Not jealous or Boastful or Proud.

- love does not **envy**.
- Can be happy for other's success, talent, good fortune.
 - Comes from security in yourself. Not a competition.
 - Everyone has gifts, talents, and a purpose.
 - We are "one body with many parts." Every part is needed.
 - Don't be jealous of another's gift. "We all have gifts" (**Romans 12**)
- Love isn't **PROUD** ... from Greek word meaning to "puff up;" "big head"
 - **Rom 12:3** – "don't think of yourself more highly than you should"
 - Or have an inflated opinion of oneself ("You're lucky to have me")
- Pride can't coexist w/godly love ("Agape") ... love isn't focused on self.
 - Jesus is perfect example of selfless love.
 - **Phil. 2:6-8** says that Jesus "emptied himself..." gave up everything and became a servant"... He "humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."
 - Jesus didn't focus on Himself.
 - Agape love doesn't say: "that's your job, not mine." Not too proud to clean toilet. do whatever for someone else.
 - Proudful people don't acknowledge they need anyone else...
- **Corinthian believers were known for proud behavior:** argued over many things (which apostle they followed; which spiritual gifts were more important) . . . they focused on **being right & winning**.
 - Pride doesn't want to lose. Agape love is willing to lose ... willing to give up for others; to humble self for others like Jesus.
 - You can be right, or be happy. To be right... is pride & arrogance.
- Love does not **BOAST**. . . There's no arrogance in love.
 - Don't boast/ brag about all you do. Do it humbly.
 - Agape love focuses on the loved one, not oneself. It's not about U
 - Jesus didn't write about himself. Others wrote the gospels.

4 – Not rude.

- Love acts with respect . . . or "doesn't act inappropriately."
- We're in a "**renaissance of rudeness**." Rudeness is rooted in selfishness
- Bad manners & discourtesy show a lack of consideration for others.

- An ill-mannered person communicates: “it’s all about me.”
- Rude behavior is condescending behavior; says: “I’m more important”
 - Agape Love can’t be selfish, self-centered . . . or rude.
 - It’s simple: love is concerned for the well-being of others.
 - Love that values people as God does treats others with courtesy & respect. So ... **love minds its manners.**
- Agape love doesn’t belittle others... it acts w/kindness, respect, gentle.

5 – Does not demand its own way.

- People demand their own way when they think they’re right.
 - This comes from **pride**.
 - But Love can admit when wrong, that they sin, & apologize.
 - A prideful person has a “know-it-all” attitude.
 - Often critical of others, but defensive if they’re criticized
- Love is able to compromise for the sake of greater good.
- We all have different gifts, preferences, insight, etc. Love unites us. And love doesn’t insist on its own way.
 - **Ways to work on this:**
- Be teachable. Be willing to see other options. Value other opinions.
- Agape love seeks inclusion, not division. To include ... allow others to...

6 - Love is not irritable.

- Life’s irritations are not an excuse to not be loving.
- Don’t take frustration out on other people.

7 – Love keeps no record of being wronged.

- Keep remembering the pain? Holding onto hurt? Can’t see the person w/o remembering that incident?
- God calls us to forgive those who trespass against us.
- The enemy torments us w/ the past . . . God wants to bless us w/future
- Part of healing is in forgiveness. To move beyond & give it to God.
- Struggling? Usually want revenge or justice. That’s God’s business
- **Learn from Joseph** – “you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.” What God allows has a purpose.

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- **The Message: 1 Cor. 13:3 – “no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.”**

Song of the week – “My King is Known By Love” by the Clark Family
Stay positive. Test negative. Get Vaccinated. Love better. 4 U in 22.