

Practicing Love - 1 Corinthians 13 – Feb. 15, 2023

Written by Paul, to the church. The Message.

13:1 – “If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

2 - If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing.

3 - If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.”

Our lives don’t matter unless we love each other.

Win awards, Super Bowl - that’s nothing. Stats on Paper. Look it up.
To make an impact, love. That stays. Unforgettable.

Worthwhile goals become worthless w/o love. Don’t take it w/u.

- Our words are Empty without love.
- Preaching/teaching & serving God... showing great faith... Empty.
- Generosity / Philanthropist / Martyr . . . still meaningless.
 - Pharisees followed rules – but didn’t love.
 - Find time to show love. **Learn** to Love. **Practice** love.

1 Jn 4:8 – “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 Jn 4:7 – “let us love one another, for love comes from God”

- Love is why we have life. Love is the purpose.
 - Our jobs give us the means to show love. Not purpose.

1 Cor. 13: 4-7 NLT: “Love is patient & kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

Break it Down: Patient

Patience & kindness are **attributes** of God. “Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness & restraint & patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?” **Rom. 2:4**

- “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” **2 Pet. 3:9**
 - o God has restraint w/us. He is tolerant, “long-suffering.” Our model.

Patience is needed when things don’t go our way; everything goes wrong.

Impatient: Putting the “I” before patient. Road rage? Sign: impatience. Restless/easily annoyed by simple mistakes? Having to wait?

“Patience is waiting without complaining”

Love others as Jesus loved us ... that’s our job. Our purpose.

John 13:34 – “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Jesus: model of patience. Thickheaded Disciples, Jesus didn’t complain.

- **2 Thess. 3:5** – “I pray that the Lord will guide you to be as loving as God and as patient as Christ.”

Kind. Kind or nice? Doing the min, lack of sincerity.

Kind is love. It’s caring, thoughtful, considerate. Kind word, gesture, deed.

Kindness pays it forward. It’s contagious. Explain: God is love, so I love.

God “is kind to the ungrateful & wicked.” **Lk. 6:35** do good: enemy.

Jealous, Boastful, Proud, or Rude - not hallmarks of love.

Reason is simple – love focuses on the loved one, not oneself.

- Braggart is full of himself. We should be telling others they’re great!
- Christian w/ God’s love: magnifies others... focuses on their needs.
 - o Andie’s mom – not “here I am,” but – “there you are!”
 - o Jesus didn’t talk about how Great He was. Humble. Wash Feet.
- Boasting makes others feel inferior . . . Jesus: others feel important

1 Jn. 4:16 – “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, & God in them.”

- **John 13:34-35** – Jesus said: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

- o Do others know? Are we busy, but bankrupt without love?

Song/ week – “Love God, Love People” by Danny Gokey

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated. Love Freely in 2023.