

Wednesday Word June 5th

1 Corinthians 13:4-4 *“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

Naomi and I were Married January 5th, 2002. Back then we didn't have cameras on our phones, so we had to take photos with actual cameras and then have them developed at a Rite Aid somewhere. We were very careful not to take too many pictures as a roll of film only had 24 pictures on a roll. My favorite picture I have of my wife I took of her on our honeymoon. She is sleeping facedown on an airport bench in Denmark. We were waiting for a connecting flight into Italy where we were going to spend the next 10 days.

The reason this is one of my favorite photos is that we had just had a huge fight in that airport. Our first fight as a married couple as we had only been married two days. We had left SeaTac 11 hours earlier and flew all night. When we got to the Copenhagen airport in Denmark, I went to the money exchange to get some coins for the phones. I exchanged a few dollars and the lady at the cage gave me a variety of coins I had never used. I needed to call the person we were renting a flat from to let him know when we would be arriving. I couldn't figure out which coins needed to be used in the payphone slot and how many. Naomi was getting irritated with me that I couldn't figure it out and we had a big argument about which coins to use. I could not, and still cannot, believe how unreasonable she was being. After a tug of war over the coins, we finally connected the call, and she went to lay down on the airport bench apparently irritated with my attitude. So, I snapped a picture.

I still have that picture to this day.

The best advice I ever received in life outside of basic biblical truth was: “Don't sweat the small things.” In other words, don't let little issues in your life and relationships rule your spirit and your attitude. These words still ring true each day.

As I think about my relationships, I have been blessed to keep in contact with many friends I have had since high school and even some since grade school. All of my relationships have had seasons of turmoil and many relationships have been severed, never to be repaired. But others have been through the fire and are still intact today.

The Bible speaks about loving your neighbor, and while this is probably the most taken out of context scripture of the last five years, Jesus had pure and godly intent when he spoke it. Love is a commitment – a choice. It is a faithful promise to remain in a relationship with someone even when it is hard – even when it seems natural to part ways. How strong would our families and churches be if we chose to love when it becomes more work than to walk away. Jesus promised to never leave us or forsake us. He stays near us even when we completely turn our backs on him.

Let's show the Love of Christ this week through the way we love in difficult times.

I Love you and God Loves You!

Pastor Eric