

TRUE LOVE ENDURES

MARCH 7, 2021

WORSHIP

Conquering Love,
Nothing But the
Blood, One Thing
Remains

WELCOME

What has been the most unusual thing you have done out of love for someone?

WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never fails...

Let us look into what many consider as the “love passage” in Scripture—**1 Corinthians 13** originally written to the church in Corinth which was a very problematic local body of believers. Paul tried to address issues such as division, immorality, quarreling, and legalism; the worst was pride. The Corinthian believers greatly desired for spiritual giftedness but they ended up comparing themselves with one another. In this chapter, Paul describes **LOVE** using **15 verbs** or action words. As we go through his definition, may we reflect upon the way we love:

1. WHAT LOVE IS

LOVE IS PATIENT (*Gk. Makrothumeo*): The original word used here can be translated as LONG-SUFFERING (**2 Corinthians 6:6, Galatians 5:22, Colossians 3:12**). This love doesn’t last for just a day or two. Being patient is making the choice and the commitment to put love into action by being patient with one another. Nobody is perfect but we should not be caught up in reacting to circumstances or find ourselves easily annoyed with the flaws of other people. This word is used most often in the context of relationships. We get to practice patience through opportunities given for us to interact with others.

LOVE IS KIND (*Gk. Chresteumai*): The word means to provide something beneficial or assist someone in an active act of goodwill. It means you’re generous in wanting to bless others. When you want to show kindness, put yourself in the shoes of other people so you can empathize with their situation. Displaying the kindness of God is so powerful that it can lead someone to repentance (**Romans 2:4**). When we look at ourselves as recipients of God’s love—His kindness and patience, we will be convinced to extend the same to others!

2. WHAT LOVE IS NOT

LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS (*Gk. Zeloo*): There is a good kind of jealousy—one that is shared in the context of marriage where you want to protect the exclusivity of your love for your spouse or when you desire for the utmost good of someone. But the jealousy described here has something to do with selfishness. It was jealousy which brought Joseph’s brothers to plan on killing him (**Genesis 37:11,19-20**). The Bible reminds us to “**rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep**” (**Romans 12:15**). For many, it’s harder to rejoice for others who are rejoicing, simply because their focus is on themselves.

LOVE DOES NOT BRAG (*Gk. Perpereuomai*), **IS NOT ARROGANT** (*Gk. Phusioo*): This is self-inflation. When we brag or become arrogant, we forget that it is **GOD WHO OWNS EVERYTHING**. Everything we have accomplished or we were able to do or achieve is from God, so the glory belongs to Him (**1 Corinthians 1:29, 1 Corinthians 10:31**).

LOVE DOES NOT ACT UNBECOMINGLY (*Gk. Aschemoneo*), **DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN** (*Gk. Zeteo*): When we are selfish, we usually act without proper decorum which is impolite and disrespectful. A great example of this is “**moodiness**”. The antidote to this is always to care for and respect others. We ought to remember Jesus’ example of selfless, others-centric response so that we too can “**regard one another as more important than yourselves**” (**Philippians 2:3**). We should keep in mind our definition of LOVE—a **commitment towards others**—imperfect people like us, to seek their highest good which often requires sacrifice on our part, for the glory of God.

LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED (*Gk. Paroxuno*): It is an outburst of emotions, usually of anger, caused by an irritation from

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something a person does to us, a reaction in exact opposition to **Hebrews 10:24**. We end up reacting rather than responding. We take a selfish stance rather than considering where the other person is coming from. To overcome this, we must always be ready to make that choice **"I will not be provoked"** and not to "sweat the small stuff". When we make a big deal out of small things, this can cause struggle or friction.

LOVE DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A WRONG SUFFERED (Gk. Logizomai): The word is an accounting term giving us a picture of "record-keeping". We must remember **Psalm 130:3** and **Hebrews 10:17** which emphasize that God forgives and remembers our lawless deeds no more. We then should extend the same grace and forgiveness to others.

LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE (Gk. Sugchairo) IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT REJOICES IN THE TRUTH: This literally means we do not take part in anything bad nor even highlight things that are not right. **It doesn't mean to sweep things under the rug** but we must make a conscious effort to magnify truth and righteousness. In our relationships, this can mean giving great appreciation for the good and not putting into the spotlight the negatives of the other person. We see this in God's example. David sinned greatly and has done many offensive things, but he was regarded as a man after God's own heart. Moses made a mistake that cost him his entrance to the Promised Land, yet he was regarded as a friend of God. They were punished for the things they did wrong as God is just, but the focus was not on those.

3. WHAT LOVE WILL ALWAYS DO

LOVE BEARS (Gk. Stego) ALL THINGS: This means to protect or cover. You do not broadcast sin or failures, but you choose to love instead. **1 Peter 4:8** reminds us that love covers a multitude of sins. One can really bear all things if that choice is made to love the other despite flaws and misgivings.

LOVE BELIEVES (Gk. Pisteuo) ALL THINGS: This does not mean we believe carelessly and end up buying into lies, gossip or slander. This means that we should be able to choose to give the person the benefit of the doubt (until proven wrong) and believe in what the person can do to improve.

LOVE HOPES (Gk. Elpizo) ALL THINGS: Love will not give up. You do not say **"I've had enough"** when you truly love someone. It is always anchored in the power of God to change lives. We trust and hope to see the changes because all things are possible with God. We put our hope in Him (**Ephesians 1:18**).

LOVE ENDURES (Gk. Hupomeno) ALL THINGS... LOVE NEVER FAILS (Gk. Pipto): To endure means to persevere or to be tenacious in all circumstances. Love is something that will continue in eternity as Paul wrote **"faith, hope, and love... but the greatest of these is love."** **Romans 5:5, 8** shows us that God enables us to love this way because He Himself displayed this when He chose to love us despite our sinfulness and imperfections. May our love for Him and for others truly ENDURE and stand the tests of time!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Which of the actions above are you doing right now and which ones do you find difficult to apply?

2. Setting It Right

What do you need to improve on based on 1 Corinthians 13's description of love?

3. Living It Out

What specific steps can you do to apply the things that you've learned in this list of "action words" for love?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will grow and sustain your love for other people. Intentionally show this love to someone this week. Share the good news that God, through the Lord Jesus Christ has manifested to us true love that endures.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails;

1 Corinthians 13:7-8