



What is Love Anyway?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Joe Parle

I You illustration

Different Kinds of Love by Constable

- Eros – Passionate Love – All take
- Storge – Familial Love – Give and take
- Phileo – Friendship Love- Give and take
- Agape – Looking out for the other person's interest unconditionally –

All give (how God loves us)

- This is not necessarily a marriage verse. It had a specific context in the letter to the Corinthians

Relationship to the Corinthians

- Constable says, “Paul followed the two positive expressions of love with seven verbs that indicate how it does not behave. The first five of these marked the Corinthians, as we have seen. They were envious (cf. 3:3; 4:18), boastful (ostentatious; 3:18; 8:2; 14:37), proud (4:6, 18–19; 5:2; 8:1), rude (7:36; 11:2–16) and self-seeking (10:24, 33). Their behavior was not loving.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NAS)

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Key Points

- Love is edifying (thoughtful and humble)
- Love is enduring

Love is Slow to Anger

- Patience becomes evident when there is pressure on a person and when that person does not react to the pressure in anger, either inwardly or outwardly.

- When one is patient he is forbearing, calm, composed, even when wronged; he endures evils, whether real or imagined.

Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 227.

Love is Kind by Rich Thomson

A kind person, then, is one who is helpful, who is serving others, whose life is useful because he is seeking to promote the happiness of others. He is friendly, affectionate, gentle, mild, and gracious in his manner.

Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 229.

Patience and Kindness

While patience is love passive, not retaliating at the inconveniences put upon it, kindness is love active, reaching out to minister good, beneficial things to others, even when they don't deserve it.

Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 229.

Love is Not Jealous

- The real test of jealousy, then, is what attitude a man has toward those who are better at being what he would like to be or who have attained what he would like to attain.
 - A person who is not jealous rejoices in his heart at the prosperity, advantages, benefits, and blessings of others.
- Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 229.

Love Does Not Brag by Thomson

- When a person is loving he is modest, careful, and unostentatious in his speech. He does not need to gain the admiration or applause of others by expressing his own excellencies or advantages (page 232).
- Example: How do we defend ourselves from criticism?

Love Is Not Arrogant by Thomson

- The one who is consistently loving becomes characterized by humility and lowliness of mind. He is unassuming, unpretentious, and unobtrusive. Because love continues to pervade his life, humility grows with rarely so much as an occasional notice, and that notice yields deep appreciation to God (233).
- Arrogant is an attitude
- Bragging is an action

Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly

- The one who loves others with God's agapaō love will be neither impolite nor indecent. He will be observably polite, courteous, gracious, mannerly, gentlemanly, tactful, and chivalrous.
- Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 235.

Love Does Not Seek Its Own

In the Greek this phrase reads much like it does in English. English even has a phrase which fairly translates the Greek: “self-seeking.” In other words, love is not selfish. Once again it is an attitude which is the focus. Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 236.

Love Does Not Seek Its Own

- When a person loves, he does not insist on having things his own way, nor does he insist on his own rights.
 - This does not mean that the one who loves is silent. What it does mean, though, is that when the believer is loving, he will not be seeking how he can please himself but how he can minister to others.
- Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 236.

Love is Not Provoked

- Love cannot be sharpened to irritation by others. There is nothing anyone can do to make love react in an unloving way.
 - “He makes me mad!” or “He irritates me!” are not uncommon expressions. But according to God’s Word, there is nothing that anyone else can ever do to determine the spirit of one who is loving, for love is not provoked.
- Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 236-37.

Love Does Not Take Into Account A Wrong Suffered (Accounting Ledger)

- Love is painfully aware of evil and does not ignore it, but love tries to overcome it with good and does not keep a record to return evil for evil [even if saved for later]. Paul embodies this attitude in 2 Cor. 2:5–11 in forgiving the one who offended him.
- David E. Garland, *1 Corinthians*, Baker exegetical commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2003), 619.

Love Does Not Rejoice In Unrighteousness But Rejoices With The Truth

- Love is concerned for the other person's happiness, and so it cannot be characteristic of love to rejoice (in however so small a way) at his unhappiness. When one is truly loving, his heart grieves at another's misfortune; he is sad for him. He only rejoices when the other is blessed because he has done righteously. Love is glad to discover goodness in others.

Rich Thomson, *Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 243.

Love Does Not Rejoice In Unrighteousness But Rejoices With The Truth

- Love rejoices with the truth (συγχαίρει δὲ τῇ ἀληθείᾳ). The verb means "to rejoice together" (cf. 12:26; Phil. 2:17–18). Love does not suppress the truth (Rom. 1:18), exchange it for a lie (Rom. 1:25), do anything against the truth (2 Cor. 13:8), or become upset when faced with the truth, no matter how uncomfortable it is (Gal. 4:16).

David E. Garland, *1 Corinthians*, 619.

Love Does Not Rejoice In Unrighteousness But Rejoices With The Truth

- Since the word "injustice" occurs in Paul's remarks on lawsuits, it is probable that he has in mind the matter of Christians defrauding other Christians in pagan courts

David E. Garland, *1 Corinthians*, Baker exegetical commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2003), 619.

Summary of Love Endures

- In 1 Cor. 13:7, the key word is πάντα (panta), which may be translated adverbially as "always" This is what love continually does. (Thiselton (2000: 1056) notes that it basically means that love has no limits, and he argues that a negation best captures the idea: "Love never tires of support, never loses faith, never exhausts hope, never gives up."

David E. Garland, 1 Corinthians, 619.

Love Bears and Endures All Things

- The best interpretation of the phrase would seem to be: “Love doesn’t give way to the pressure of all things put upon it by others.”
- To “bear” is to be able to take any amount of pressure and not give way. To endure is to be able to go on and on as long as necessary and not give up.

Rich Thomson, Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders, 246.

Love Bears and Endures All Things

- Love does not give in (“bears”), and love does not get to the end of its rope (“endures”). And so the two together give a beautiful expression of the quality of love. Love bears the weight of any situation without collapsing, and it bears this weight as long as it needs to – on and on, steadfastly – and never ceases.

Rich Thomson, Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders, 246.

Love Believes All Things

- In other words, when love “believes all things” there is not room for suspicion, distrust, or cynicism. Love is not gullible, though, or naïve. It is evident that the eyes of love are not closed, for it has been seen that it “rejoices not in iniquity.” Love is fully aware of wrongs done.

Rich Thomson, The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders, 229.

Love Believes All Things

- Thus, it “believes all things” which are not clearly controverted by established facts. In this phrase, therefore, it is taught that love is not looking critically for wrong doing or wrong motive in others. It prefers to believe the best until there is no recourse but to accept the worst. And even then love prefers to find good in another rather than dwelling on the wrong.

Rich Thomson, The Heart of Man, 229.

Love Hopes All Things

- The hope of love doesn't give up on others. There is always a way. And isn't that the message of the Gospel? There is always hope in any situation.
- "It doesn't seem like he'll ever change!" is the kind of statement which one might hear from an individual who has lost his hope in another and so has ceased to love. When one lacks love his attitude toward others is pessimistic, despairing, hopeless.

Rich Thomson, *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, 249.

Key Points

- Love is edifying (thoughtful and humble)
- Love is enduring

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NAS)

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.