Love Defined Pt 1 of 2

Adam Willingham · 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

INTRODUCTION

- It doesn't matter what gift you might have, it doesn't matter to what extent you might give yourself in service of God, if you don't have love, you're wasting your time.
- Paul's emphasis is not so much on what love is, but on what love does, how love behaves.
- What God is after is He is after more than instruction, He's after transformation.

1 Love Is Patient, Love Is Kind

1 Peter 2:23; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:20–21

- If you do not express patience and kindness to your fellow man, you are not showing love for them.
- It chooses to love another, not because of what they've done for you, but in spite of what they've done to you.
- And while being reviled, he did not revile in return. While suffering, he uttered no threats, but kept entrusting himself to him who judges righteously.
- Patience passively refuses to act in the same fashion. Kindness proactively acts with good deeds.
- Kindness doesn't take much effort, but it does take intention.

2 Love Does Not Envy

Proverbs 14:30

- They didn't understand that the parts of the body that seemed to be less important were actually necessary and deserve greater honor.
- How do you feel at the news of another person's success over yours?
- It is the kind that doesn't so much want what they have, but just hate the fact that they have it.
- A church that has that attitude will self-destruct. And a Christian who has that attitude will also be ruined.

3 Love Does Not Boast

1 Corinthians 4:7

- For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?
- If there is anything in us that is of any value, it is because God has given it to us.
- The loving person who is successful does not seek a platform upon which to parade his or her accomplishments.
- True love will always be far more impressed with its own unworthiness than with its own merit.

4 Love Is Not Arrogant, Not Puffed Up

1 Corinthians 4:6; Romans 12:16

- While boasting is pride acting outwards in relation to other people, arrogance is pride acting inward in relation to oneself.
- Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
- Arrogance has a big head, while love has a big heart. Love is concerned to give itself, not to assert itself.

5 Love Is Not Rude

Proverbs 27:14

- We're talking here about common courtesy, which in our day and age is not so common.
- Our culture calls it courtesy, but Paul calls it love.
- There is a graciousness in Christian love, which never forgets that courtesy and tact and politeness are lovely things.

6 Love Is Not Self-Seeking

1 Corinthians 10:23–24; John 15:13

- The Corinthians were selfish, as they were demanding their rights without any regard to what was best or what was good for others.
- Paul was willing to give up his rights.
- All things are lawful, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own good but that of his neighbor.
- Jesus said that he came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **As we consider these first seven, I want you to ask yourself if you could honestly say of yourself, I am patient. I am kind. I am not jealous. I do not boast, and am not arrogant, I am not rude, I am not selfish.**

MY NOTES