Suffers Long, Kind, Not Envious

Buddy Payne · 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 · Series: **The Greatest of These Is Love**

INTRODUCTION

- Even if you gave everything you had to feed the poor, if it were not undergirded and motivated by the more excellent way, then it adds up to nothing.
- What you find in verses four through seven is 15 verbs, all of which describe the actions of love.
- What's important is to take our own lives and put them in contrast and comparison to what God says love does.

1 Love Suffers Long

Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60; Ephesians 4:1–3

- If you literally translated what God chooses to say about love in this first description, what he says is love is long tempered.
- It's the quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation, which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish.
- It's the ability to be wronged and wronged and wronged again and again. To have the ability to retaliate, and never even to think of it.
- And as he lay there receiving that from his people, what did he say? Lord lay not this sin to their charge.
- With all lowliness and gentleness, with long suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- We're all at different levels of development as Christians. We need to be patient with each other.

2 Love Is Kind

Titus 3:4–5; Matthew 11:28–30

- He said, love looks for a way to be constructive.
- Long suffering endures the injuries of others, and kindness pays them back only with what's good for them.
- Long suffering says, I'll take anything from my enemies. And kindness says, I'll give anything to my enemies that meets their needs.
- But when the kindness and the love of God, our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.
- I really think what Jesus is saying there is, My yoke is kindly.
- Love does what's useful with the soul salvation of the other person in mind.

3 Love Does Not Envy

James 3:14–16; Proverbs 27:4; Song of Solomon 8:6

- Love does not envy. That means it doesn't boil over with the successes of others. It doesn't get out of shape because someone else gets ahead of me.
- For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there.
- Joseph's reaction was as close to love in its perfection as you'll see coming from a human being. Because he took their evil jealousy and he did what was good for them.
- Jealousy is as cruel as the grave. It has a vehement flame. It's destructive.
- When love sees someone powerful, successful, prosperous, popular, rich, beautiful, gifted, love is glad. And love rejoices for them.
- There's a tendency in us not to want somebody else to get ahead of us.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Love is supremely an act of the will that says, I'm going to conform my life to what God says no matter what.**

MY NOTES