

What Love Will Do - 1 Corinthians 13

The church at Corinth were going through some spiritual problems. There were some who were bragging about their spiritual gifts and it was dividing the church. We see that in 1 Cor 12. Verse 31 says, "They earnestly desired the best gifts." Paul says, "I'll show you a more excellent way." I will show you something more valuable than the spiritual gifts that you seek.

In verses 1-3, Paul is going to use 5 illustrations where each action is done without love. Without Love we cannot be happy; we cannot be spiritual, and we cannot be pleasing to God. God cares about our motives as well as our actions. Why do we serve the Lord? Why do we visit the sick and tell people about Jesus? Love.

Here is a list from heaven, a perfect picture underneath our noses where we can observe and see if we are the kind of people God wants us to be. There are 15 Characteristics about love.

We are going to cover the chapter with two different lessons. This week we will look at what love does and next week we will look at what love does not do.

How do I know if I have love in my heart? What does a loving person look like?

I. Love is patient: Verse 4

A real loving Christian is one that is patient. Another translation of this verse reads, "Love suffers long."

The phrase "Suffers long" describes a person who is not easily angered. They suffer a lot before they ever blow up.

1 Peter 4:8 says, "Love covers over a multitude of sins."

When I think about love that suffers long, I think about Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. On that terrible night before His crucifixion, Jesus was troubled. In Matt 26:37-39, Jesus said, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, "Father if it's possible take this cup from me." Then immediately He says, "Nevertheless, not my will but your will be done."

This is what it means to have a love that is longsuffering. I will suffer through anything and endure anything for the person they love.

II. Love is kind: Verse 4

What is kindness? Kindness is going beyond the call of duty as you show your appreciation for the other person. We see it in John 13, where Jesus is in the upper room with the Apostles. Suddenly He picks up a towel and begins washing their feet. Why do He do that?

Verse 15, “I have given you an example so that you should do what I have done for you.” Kindness shows to people that we love them. Kindness is what caused a crooked tax collector named Zacchaeus to change his life. Jesus said, get down from the tree, I’m coming to your house today (Luke 19:5).

III. Love rejoices in the Truth: Verse 6

What is our attitude towards the gospel of Christ? Do we rejoice when we hear the truth? Through the scriptures, the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and tells us what we need to change.

In Romans 1, Paul gives a list of sins that described the gentile world. In Chapter 2:2 says that “we know that the judgment of God is according to **truth** against those who practice such things.”

Sometimes the gospel can roll over our toes like a steamroller, but if I am a loving person, I will rejoice in it.

Lastly - in I Corinthians 13 - Paul tells us that love has...

IV. Certain characteristics: Verse 7

Love bears all things. This is talking about bearing the hardships that come our way.

Love believes all things: This is talking about trusting in the promises of God.

Love Hopes in all things: It’s optimistic.

Love endures all things: It endures the trials, the difficulties, the sweat and the strain.

Close: Am I a loving person? Don’t ask me, just look at the list. Are you patient? Are you kind? Do you rejoice in the truth? Do you bear all things; believe all things? Do you hope all things? Do you endure all things? In John 13:35 Jesus said, “by this all will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.