



IN THE NAME OF LOVE DEVOTIONAL

LOVE IS | NOVEMBER 22, 2020

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter: What people in your life have modeled a life of love? In what specific ways do they love God and others well?

Key Passage: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

In last week’s lesson, we learned from 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 how valuable love is. The focus of this week’s lesson is on how virtuous love is. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Paul lists eight characteristics of love that reminds us of how matchless love is.

1. Patient “Love is patient...” (v.4a)

Agape love does not get angry or irritated quickly. It is willing to suffer long with someone’s annoying tendencies.

Discuss: Think about someone who easily irritates you or is hard to love. How does the realization that God loves you change your attitude toward them?

2. Kind “Love is...kind...” (v.4b)

Agape love doesn’t just feel kind; it takes action. In Jesus’ Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), a man had been beaten and robbed. A priest saw the injured man, but he kept his distance—he thought he was too holy to be helpful. A Levite walked by and was curious, but he avoided getting involved—he was too busy to be bothered. But then the wounded man’s enemy, a Samaritan, saw the man and got close enough to help even though it cost him time, energy, and money. Jesus calls us as His followers to express kindness like the Good Samaritan did. *Agape* isn’t just about helping people you like or who are just like you. *Agape* helps people no matter who they are, what they look like, or where they come from.

Discuss: Being kind to others can be emotionally draining. What signs in your life tell you that you need to be emotionally recharged?

3. Humble “Love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.” (v.4c)

Agape love rejoices when others succeed. *Agape* love leads us to evaluate our lives in light of God’s greatness and our own weakness, and then to operate our relationships accordingly.

Discuss: Think about the ways God has blessed the people in your life recently. How can you rejoice with them today?

4. **Courteous** “*Love...is not rude...*” (v.5a)

Agape love shows itself in the little things like respect, manners, and grace.

Discuss: What does it mean to treat others with dignity and respect?

5. **Selfless** “*Love does not insist on its own way; it is not resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth...*” (v.5b-6)

Agape love makes sure its actions and reactions are appropriate—in line with truth.

Discuss: What are some practical ways to show someone that you trust them?

6. **Forgiving** “*Love bears all things...*” (v.7a)

Agape love doesn’t keep a record of wrongs. Once you recognize that you’re forgiven, you are then enabled and strengthened to forgive other people.

Discuss: Why is it often hardest to forgive the people we love the most?

7. **Hopeful** “*Love...believes all things, hopes all things...*” (v.7b)

Agape love looks for the best in people. When you have high expectations of someone, you don’t tell it like it is—you tell it like it could be. You believe in what God wants to do in and through that person, and you affirm God’s purpose for them. You can help them start believing what Jesus says about them instead of believing what other people say. You shape the people around you by your expectations of them. When you expect the best from others, you’re reflecting Jesus’ hopeful love.

Discuss: Are you struggling to expect the best from someone in your life? If so, how can you begin to change your expectations?

8. **Persistent** “*Love...endures all things.*” (v.7c)

Lasting love is persistent, determined, diligent, and resolute. It endures the worst and is stubborn in its insistence to not give up on a relationship.

Discuss: How have you had to be persistent to maintain lasting love in a relationship? How did your relationship grow as a result?

Resources:

The God Who Loves by John MacArthur

“What Is Love? - Meaning & Biblical Understanding of the Word” article at www.crosswalk.com

1 Corinthians 13 Resources at www.preceptaustin.org