

1 Corinthians 13: Love Worth Sharing

v.4 :"Love is patient and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

v.5: "Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil.

V.6: "Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth."

V.7: "love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

V.8: "Love never fails..."

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1. Love is patient:

- Patience—“taking a long time to boil”
 - What factors determine the speed at which it boils?
 - Patience is not naïve
 - Patience does not ignore bad behavior:
 - It just keeps the flame down;
 - It waits, listens, it’s slow to boil---This is how God treats us!!
- **Matthew 18.26-27:** The debtor who owed millions of dollars
 - “...Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.”
 - V.27: “Then the Master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him his debt.”
 - Patience is more than a virtue for long lines and slow waiters.
- Patience, in essence, is the red carpet upon which God’s grace approaches us.
- No patience, no mercy.
- Jesus uses the word for patience twice in this story and never again in the Gospels

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2. *Love is Patient:*

- ***Galatians 5.22:*** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.”
 - Have you asked God to give you some of this fruit??
 - Did you grow impatient?
 - Ask Him again---He won’t grow impatient with your pleading
 - More than likely, you will receive patience in your praying!
 - ***Prov. 14.29:*** “Patient people have great understanding.”
 - Could it be that your impatience stems from a lack of understanding?
 - Ex. Prague (Sermon being translated)
 - Patience can replace impatience
 - ***Prov.11.12:*** “A man of understanding holds his tongue.”
 - ***Prov. 17.27:*** “A man of understanding is even tempered.”
- Before anything else, Love is Patient.

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3. *Love is Patient:*

- *If we are not as patient as we should be, could it be that we are not as understanding of God's patience toward us?*
- **2 Peter 3.9:** “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is patient toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
- And if God is being patient with you, can't you pass on some patience to others? Of course you can. Because before love is anything else: Love is Patient!

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1. *Love is Kind:*

- **Nehemiah 9.17:** “You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness.”
- **Matt. 11.28-30:** “Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- Farmers in ancient Israel used to train an inexperienced ox by yoking it to an experienced one with a wooden harness.
- The straps around the older animal were tightly drawn.
- He carried the load.
- The yoke around the younger animal was loose.
- He walked alongside the more mature ox, but his burden was light.
- **Jesus:** “*I walk along side you. We are yoked together. But I pull the weight and carry the burden.*”

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2. Love is Kind

- I wonder how many burdens is Jesus carrying for us that we know nothing about?
 - He carries our sins for us
 - He carries our shame
 - He carries our eternal debt for sure
- Could it be that He lifted our anxiety off our shoulders and placed a yoke of kindness on ours?
- In the original language, the word kindness carries an idea that our English word does not.
 - Mainly it refers to an act of grace.
 - But it also refers to a person who is “useful, serviceable, adapted to its purpose.”
 - Kindness was even employed to describe food that was tasty.
 - “That salad was especially kind tonight.”
 - Hasn’t God been especially kind—pleasantly useful to you?
 - Since He has been so kind to us...can’t we be kind to others?

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Love is Kind

- We all have been to seminars on team building.
- Ever been to a seminar on being kind?
- ***Matt. 9.13:*** “I want mercy (kindness) more than sacrifice...”
 - Jesus was kind to:
 - Zacchaeus: (Luke 19)
 - The woman taken in adultery: (John 8.4---FF)
 - The woman who touched his clothing (Mark 5.25—FF)
 - “Daughter”
 - ***Eph. 4.32:*** “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
 - Kindness at home. Kindness in public. Kindness in church. And kindness to your enemies.
 - Finally----

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Love is Kind

- To Yourself
 - We tend to be tough on ourselves
 - We can be self-serving
 - Maybe, like Zacchaeus, we could have cheated our friends.
- Did Jesus scold Zacchaeus, the wedding feast running our of wine, the woman caught in adultery, the woman who secretly touched Him???
 - He is kind to the greedy, kind to the sick, and He is kind to us.
 - Can't we be a little kinder to ourselves?
 - O, but you don't know all my faults and challenges—true, but Jesus does!
 - He forgives our faults, sins, character flaws, etc.—Can't we forgive ourselves.
 - He knows everything about you, yet He does not hold back his kindness toward you.
- Kindness: useful, serviceable, adapted to its purpose. (an act of Grace).
 - Kindness not only says good morning---kindness makes the coffee!

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747 Principle: “To him whom is forgiven little, shows little love.”

- ***Are we less:***
 - loving, patient, kind, useful, forgiving, tolerant, of others because we don't feel/understand the **depth** of how much God has been all those things (and more) to us!
 - Once realized...our love and immense gratitude for God will grow and our love for others will flourish.