

# Qualities of **Love**

Presented by the Monte Vista church of Christ

# 1 Corinthians 13: General Information

1. 4 Words in Greek for LOVE
  - a. **Storge**: Affection (familial love)
  - b. **Phileo**: friendship
    - i. It suggests love between two people with common interests.
    - ii. We are not commanded to love everyone with Phileo love because we do not share a common bond with the world.
  - c. **Eros**: passion, desire, (sexual love)
  - d. **Agape**: self-sacrificing, caring (God like love)
    - i. Love because of the intrinsic value of everyone's soul.
  - e. Only Phileo and Agape are used in the N.T.
  - f. Paul only uses Agape in 1 Cor.13!
  
2. God demonstrated love in Christ and commands us to love, but He will not force us to love.
  - a. Agape love is a deliberate choice of the will.
  - b. C.S. Lewis, "it is a love that enables man to love what is not naturally lovable; lepers, criminals, enemies, morons, the sulky, the superior, and the sneering."
  - c. Agape love is not affected by the worthiness or unworthiness of the one being loved.
  - d. Agape is the higher, divine love only in the sense it calls for the type of sacrifice Christ manifested on the cross.
  
3. The Corinthian church was gauging holiness by possession of miraculous gifts and not by the love expressed in practical living.
  - a. They had all the miraculous gifts available (1.7) but still ended up as the most carnal church described in the N.T.
  - b. It is character and not charisma that counts!

4. In the final analysis, men are free to love God or despise Him, and in a sense responsible for their own character.
  - a. When Jesus comes back at the end of time, men will go right on being in character with what they have chosen to be. (**Rev.22.10-11**).  
“Let the evildoer still do evil...and the righteous still do right...”
  - b. The church as Ephesus (**Rev.2.2-4**) busied themselves with things but lacked the most important thing...love.
  - c. They were not going to be ready for the upcoming Roman persecution and tribulation because of their lack of agape love. This happened from 100 A.D. through 300 A.D.

## ***Qualities of Love: Introduction***

1. Luke 7:40-47 (**The 747 Principle**)
  - a. Simon the Pharisee and a woman from the streets at dinner with Jesus.
  - b. “This man if he were a prophet would know what kind of woman she is.”
    - i. Lesson: Don’t think thoughts that you don’t want Jesus to hear!
2. A creditor loaned money to two people:
  - a. One debtor owed 500 days wages
  - b. One debtor owed 50 days wages
  - c. Neither could repay the debt.
  - d. Creditor: Forgave both their debts
  - e. Jesus: “Which of the two loved him more?”
3. Jesus: “Simon, do you see this woman?”
  - a. You gave no water to wash my feet.
  - b. You gave me no kiss (greeting).
  - c. You did not anoint my head with oil.
  - d. She washed my feet with her tears.
  - e. She wiped the tears dry with her hair.
  - f. She has not ceased kissing my feet.
  - g. She anointed my feet with fragrant oil.
  - h. She came for Him, not them.
4. How do we explain the difference between the two?
  - a. Training? Education? Money?
  - b. What does she cherish that Simon doesn’t?
  - c. God’s love/mercy/grace!
5. Jesus: “Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven for she loved much.”

6. **747 Principle:** A person who is forgiven little, loves little.
  - a. **1 John 4.19:** “We love because He first loved us.”
  - b. People like Simon don’t need grace...they analyze it.
  - c. They don’t request mercy, they debate and prorate it.
  - d. She drinks up God’s grace---Simon is not even thirsty!
  
7. **747:** We can’t give what we’ve never received.
  - a. The secret of love: “We love, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4.19)
  - b. **Ephesians 5: 1-2:** “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us.”
  
8. Want to learn to forgive?
  - a. Consider how God has forgiven you.
  
9. Want to put others first?
  - a. Consider how Christ emptied Himself and came to this earth as a servant—for you.
  
10. Want to be more generous?
  - a. See how generous God has been with you. (**Rom.5.8**).
  
11. Having trouble putting up with cranky ungrateful people?
  - a. Consider how much God’s puts up with you! (**Luke 6.35**).
  
12. Some of our brothers/sisters/friends/children need:
  - a. Our tears
  - b. Our love
  - c. Our generosity
  
13. If we have not received these things from God, how can we give them to others? (Discussion)

**14.1 John 4.9-10:** “God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”

**15.1 John 4.11:** “Dear friends, since God loved us so much, we surely ought to love each other.”

16. Replace the word love with your name and then read 1 Cor. 13. 4-8.

- a. Can you do it and still tell the truth??
- b. Instead insert Jesus’ name in the verses in place of the word love.
- c. This is a love that maybe we cannot reproduce fully but it is a love that we cannot resist!

17. Most are thirsty for this type of love (just like the woman in Luke 7).

- a. Those who should have loved you, didn’t.
- b. Those who could have loved you, didn’t.
- c. You were left with a broken heart.
- d. You were left with a broken marriage.
- e. Does anybody love me?

18. What is Heaven’s answer?

- a. God does.
- b. Jesus does.
- c. He can fill each of us with a love worth giving.
- d. He loved us first deeply, realize it, and then give that love to others.
- e. Once realized, our love and immense gratitude for God will grow and our love for others will flourish!

## Lesson 1: Love is Patient (Slow to Boil).

1. Spiritual “death row”
  - a. The Governor calls: Sentence commuted!
  - b. **Romans 2.4:** Forbearance and longsuffering of God
  - c. **Psalms 103.8:** “The Lord is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in mercy.”
  
2. God could have been angry and impatient with us...hopeless.
  - a. Our broken promises
  - b. Our lack of thanksgiving toward Him for all His blessings
  - c. Our temper tantrums
  - d. *Max Lucado*, “if broken promises were lumber, we could build a subdivision.”
  - e. **2 Peter 3.9:** “...longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
  
3. **1 Cor.13.4:** First on the list is: Patience
  - a. Means “taking a long time to boil”
  - b. Causes: size of the pot, size of the stove, No!
    - i. The intensity of the flame!
    - ii. Patience keeps the burner down.
  
4. **Matthew 18. 23-35:** Parable of the two debtors
  - a. One owed millions; one owed hundreds of dollars.
  - b. Millions: “sir, be patient with me...”
  - c. Jesus uses this word for patience twice in this story...never uses again
  - d. You define what patience means to you in your life\_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. The major debtor ran to his small debtor...pay all now!
  - f. Small debtor pleaded for patience...arrested.
  - g. The king’s patience made no difference in the major debtor’s life.
    - i. He was not thankful for the king’s great patience
    - ii. He received great patience but gave none!

5. Do we find it hard to forgive others?
  - a. 747 Principle: Explain \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Are we so ungrateful and self-absorbed that we demand patience for ourselves but offer little to others?
  - c. **Galatians 5.22**: Fruit of the Spirit...patience...
  - d. **Proverbs 14.29**: "Patient people have great understanding."
    - i. What is the inverse of Prov.14.29?
  
6. Our visit to Prague, Czech Republic story.
  - a. Patience replaced impatience after greater understanding.
  - b. **Proverbs 24.3**: "A man of understanding holds his tongue."
  - c. Before you lash out, listen up.
  - d. Before you strike out, listen up.
  - e. Major connection between understanding and patience.
  
7. **James 1.3-4**: "the testing of your faith produces patience."
  - a. Endurance, perseverance.
  - b. "let patience have its perfect work...that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
  - c. **1 Thessalonians 5.14**: "...be patient with all."
  
8. **2 Peter 3.9**: "God is being patient with you...can we pass on some patience to others?"
  
9. First on the list of the qualities of love...Patience.



## Lesson 2: Love is Kind (Useful, Serviceable, Good)

1. I wonder how many burdens is Jesus carrying for us that we know nothing about?
  - a. He carries our sins for us
  - b. He carries our shame
  - c. He carries our eternal debt for sure
  
2. Could it be that He lifted our anxiety off our shoulders and placed a yoke of kindness on ours?
  
3. In the original language, the word kindness carries an idea that our English word does not.
  - a. It mainly refers to a person who is “useful, serviceable, adapted to its purpose.”
  - b. In other words: action, service, giving.
  - c. William Penn: “I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore there is any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do to any fellow being let me do it now and not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”
  
4. Kindness was even employed to describe food that was especially tasty.
  - a. “That salad was very kind tonight.”
  - b. Hasn’t God been especially kind---pleasantly useful to you?
  - c. Since God has been so kind to us...can’t we be kind to others?
  - d. How would the “747 principle” state this? (Discuss)
  
5. **Nehemiah 9.17**: “You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness.”

6. **Matthew 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 of 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.”
  - a. Farmers in ancient Israel used to train an inexperienced ox by yoking it to an experienced one with a wooden harness.
  - b. The straps around the older animal were tightly drawn.
  - c. He carried the load.
  - d. The yoke around the younger inexperienced animal was loose.
  - e. He walked alongside the more mature ox, but his burden was light.
  
7. Jesus is saying:
  - a. I walk alongside you.
  - b. We are yoked together.
  - c. But, I pull the weight and carry the burden.
  - d. Follow along with Me!
  
8. We have all been to many seminars on team building during our working careers.
  - a. Have you ever been to a seminar on being kind? (Discuss).
  
9. **Matthew 9.13**: “I want mercy (kindness) more than sacrifice...”
  - a. Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus (**Luke 19**).
  - b. The woman taken in adultery (**John 8.4...FF**).
  - c. The woman who touched his clothing (**Mark 5.25...FF**).
    - i. Uses the word “daughter”; only time He ever uses it.
  - d. **Luke 10.30-37**: “The Good Samaritan”
    - i. “...Which one of these was neighbor to him...”
    - ii. “He who showed mercy (kindness) to him...”

10. **Ephesians 4.32:** “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

- a. Kindness at home.
- b. Kindness in public.
- c. Kindness in church.
- d. Kindness to your enemies.
- e. Finally, kindness to yourself.
- f. Discuss these.

11. Did Jesus scold Zacchaeus, the wedding feast for running out of wine, the woman caught in adultery, the woman who secretly touched Him???

- a. He is kind to the greedy, kind to the sick, and kind to us.
- b. Can't we be a little kinder to ourselves?
- c. O, but you don't know all my faults and flaws...true...  
but Jesus does!
- d. He know everything about you, yet He doesn't hold back...
- e. Kindness: Useful, serviceable, adapted to its purpose.
- f. An act of grace!

## Lesson 3: Love Does Not Envy (Jealousy)---(Inflamed)

1. The Jews had one word for Envy (Qua-nah) which means “to be intensely red.”
  - a. Have you seen such envy?
  - b. **Proverbs 6.34**: “Jealousy enrages a man...”
  - c. **Proverbs 14.30**: “Peace of mind means a healthy body, but jealousy will rot your bones.”
  - d. **Proverbs 27.4**: “Anger is cruel and destroys like a flood but no one can put up with jealousy.”
  - e. **Psalms 37.1-3**: “Don’t be jealous...Trust the Lord and do good.”
    - i. The cure for jealousy: TRUST
    - ii. The cause of jealousy: Distrust.
    - iii. List some Bible examples:  

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    - iv. List some real-life examples:  

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2. Only Agape love can see all the inequalities of life and remain content with its own place.
  - a. Paul, **Philippians 4.11-13**: “...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased and how to abound...to be hungry and to be full...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
3. Jealousy in its basest form, not only desires what others have, but if unable to attain it, begrudges the good that others have.
  - a. They don’t want a car like yours, they want yours.
4. Restate the “747 Principle” in this context.

## Lesson 4: Love is Not Boastful (Gr. Perpereutai): Only used one time in N.T.

1. In classical Greek: “A wind-bag” or “braggart.”

- a. Love does not “show-off”
- b. Love does not do things for praise or applause of others.
- c. **Matt. 23.5-7**: Pharisees love the most important seats, enlarge their phylacteries, make long prayers, love greetings in the market place, and loved to be called “Teacher.”
- d. The problem with the “pecking order” is not the order. The problem is with the pecking!
- e. How can we be boastful in the Biblical sense?
- f. **Philippians 2.3**: “Regard one another as more important than themselves.”
  - i. **Phil. 2.5-8**: “Jesus emptied Himself...taking on the form of a servant...”
  - ii. **Romans 12.10**: “Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves.”
- g. Jesus flip-flopped the “pecking order.”
  - i. He was known as a carpenter.
  - ii. He was happy to be mistaken as the gardener.
  - iii. He served others by washing their feet.
  - iv. Each morning He gifts us with beauty.
  - v. Each Sunday He calls us to His table of remembrance.

- h. Max Lucado: “Jesus swapped a spotless palace for a grimy stable. He exchanged the worship of angels for the company of killers. He could hold the universe in His palm but gave it up to float in the womb of a maiden.”
  - i. *If you knew that only a relative few would care that you came, would you still come to earth?*
  - ii. *Jesus did.* The palm that held the universe took the nail of a soldier for us.
  - iii. *Your place in Heaven was more important to Him than His place there, so He gave it up so you could have yours.”*
  
- 2. Accept our part in the body and be useful helping others.
  - a. Make people a priority. Jesus did!
  - b. He did some of His best work “one on one.”
  - c. Show examples of this\_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - d. How can we do that in our lives?

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## Lesson 5: Love Is Not Rude

1. Greek: Literally means “does not act unbecomingly” or without graciousness. “Shameful/disgraceful behavior.”
  - a. Without tact or charm
  - b. Love can be courteous, tactful, polite, and respectful without compromising the truth.
  - c. Give examples of religiously being “rude” in this context.
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Give examples of how we can apply “not being rude” in this context.
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - How does the “Golden Rule” play in this area?
    - **Mark 10.45**: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.”
    - **John 13.4-5**: “...washed the disciples feet”
    - **Hebrews 4.13**: “Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes.”
    - A God of lesser courtesy would remind us of our past.
  - e. Can one be right without being “rude?” Explain.
  - f. How is Christ courteous, polite, respectful, to us?

- g. **Rev. 3.20:** “I stand at the door and knock.”
- He does not force His way into our hearts.
  - He awaits our invitation to cross the threshold.
  - The road to Emmaus story: **Luke 24.29**
    - i. He entered the house only after He was urged to enter
    - ii. Only days before He died for their sins!
  - **Ephesians 2.6:** “He raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens.”
    - i. He pulls out a seat for us...so to speak!
- h. **Matthew 5.16:** “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
2. 747 Principle: As you reflect on His courtesy to you, you’ll be more likely to offer the same to others.
- **Galatians 3.27:** “All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (niv). We “wear Jesus.”
  - *Those who don’t believe notice how we behave.*
  - When we are gracious, they assume Christ must be gracious.
  - What do people think if we are dishonest, brash, ungracious?
  - **Romans 12.18:** “Do your best to live in peace with everyone.”

## Lesson 6: Love Does Not Seek Its Own (Selfishness)

1. Selfishness:
  - a. Never insists on its own way
  - b. Greek: "Love is willing to sacrifice its own interests for that of others."
  - c. Love does not demand its own rights (even if it may have some) above that of others.
  
2. Barclay: "In the last analysis, there are in this world only two kinds of people---those who are continually thinking of their rights and those who are continually thinking of their duties."
  - a. "Those insisting on their privileges and those who are remembering their responsibilities."
  - b. Love is not "Me first."
  - c. "Put the spot light back over here where it belongs!"
  
3. Example: Group Photo
  - a. Who do you look at first?
  - b. Do you like the picture if you look good?
  - c. Do you still like the picture if some are cross-eyed and others who have spinach on their teeth?
  
4. The self-centered see everything through self.
  - a. It's all about me.
  - b. If the weather is bad, if the traffic is bad, etc. Does every situation seem to be filtered through me and my needs?
  
5. **James 3.16**: "Whenever people are jealous or selfish, they cause trouble and do all sorts of cruel things." (cev).
  - a. Look at the newspaper/TV/internet news
  - b. Government corruption, corporate greed, robberies, murders, divorce, sexual infidelity, etc.

6. **Phil.2.3-4:** “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (NASV).
  - a. Bottom line: words suggest a self-preoccupation that hurts others.
  - b. First century writers: used the word (selfishness) “to describe a politician who procured office by illegal manipulation or a prostitute who seduced the client, demeaning both herself and him.”
  - c. Max Lucado: “Selfishness is an obsession with self that excludes others, hurting everyone.”
  
7. Explain how to reconcile your own personal interests while still maintaining the Biblical perspective for others?
  - a. Achieving success
  - b. Wishing to look nice
  - c. Wanting “stuff”
  - d. Wanting a great education
  - e. My schedule
  
8. What is the cure for selfishness?
  - a. Christ has to become the center of our focus.
  - b. Explain the “747 Principle” in the context of selfishness.
  
9. Someone once said, “why don’t you come down off God’s throne of judgment and let Him rule for awhile!”

## Lesson 7: Love is Not Provoked (Irritable)

1. Greek:( paraoxunetai) ---a fit; an attack; a convulsion of emotion.
  - a. Literally: Hyper-sharp or intense sharpening.
  - b. Barclay: “Love never flies into a temper fit.”
  
2. Early Jewish Rabbis had four classifications of people dealing with provocation:
  - a. Those easily provoked but hard to pacify---their loss is cancelled by their gain.
  - b. Those hard to provoke but hard to pacify---their gain is cancelled by their loss.
  - c. Those easily provoked and easily pacified---they are evil.
  - d. Those hard to provoke and easily pacified---they are righteous.
  
3. Love must be angry with the sin but never with the sinner.
  
4. Two brothers: Like any siblings, they had their differences.
  - a. One more like Mom, the other like Dad.
  - b. One geared toward livestock.
  - c. One interested in farming and produce.
  - d. Played in the same hills.
  - e. Worshiped the same God.
  - f. Why did one kill the other?
  
5. **Genesis 4.5**: “Cain was very angry.”
  - a. **Ephesians 4.26-27**: “Be angry and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”
  - b. Anger is not sin but it can lead to sin very quickly.
  - c. Why the short fuse for Cain?
    - i. Gen.4.4-5: “The Lord accepted Abel and his gift but did not accept Cain and his gift. So, Cain became very angry and felt rejected.”
    - ii. Anger and rejection in the same sentence.
    - iii. Anger is used over 400 times in the Bible.

6. The sons of Jacob were rejected by their father as he pampered Joseph.
  - a. The result?
  - b. Gen.37.4: "But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him (Joseph)."
  
7. Saul was rejected by his people and chose David instead.
  - a. Saul was angry because of his being rejected.
  - b. **1 Samuel 18.7-8**: "...Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten-thousands..."
  
8. Jonah had a big problem with anger.
  - a. The Ninevites were not worthy of God's mercy (Jonah thought).
  - b. God rejected Jonah's opinion.
  - c. **Jonah 4.1**: "It greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry."
  
9. Anger is a very complex emotion and such things as stress, impatience, high expectations/minimum results, health issues, over estimation of ones importance, etc. Can come into play here.
  - a. But rejection seems to be at the forefront as a cause of anger.
  
10. Have we ever asked any of the following questions/statements?
  - a. Why won't God give me a job?
  - b. I've served Him all these years and can't get a break.
  - c. Do I have to spend the rest of my life paying for one mistake?
  - d. I know people who do half the work but get all the blessings!
  - e. Why won't God answer my prayers?
    - i. I go to church.
    - ii. I pay my bills.
    - iii. My bank account still reads not much.

11. If rejection (perceived or real) causes anger, wouldn't acceptance cure it?
- a. 747 Principle: "He who is forgiven little, loves little."
  - b. Replace the word forgiven with accepted, what does it say now?
  - c. If we think God is harsh, unfair, distant, etc. guess how we will treat people?
  - d. If we think people are harsh, unfair, distant to us, guess how we will treat people?
  - e. He who is accepted little, loves little!

12. If we finally understood that God has overwhelmed us with unconditional love, grace, mercy toward us, would it make a difference with us?

- a. Look at the apostle Paul's life.
  - i. **Acts 8.3**: "He made havoc of the church."
  - ii. Arrested Christians, gave his consent for Stephen to be killed.
  
- b. After Christ:
  - i. **Phil.1.7-8**: "...I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."
  - ii. **Eph.1.16**: "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."
  - iii. **1 Thess.2.7**: "We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her children."
  - iv. **2 Cor.12.15**: "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved."

- c. Even his accusers and tormentors:
  - i. They accused him, beat him, jailed him, mocked him, etc.
  - ii. What was his reaction to all this?
    - 1. **Col. 3.3:** “Your life is hidden now with Christ in God.”
  - iii. Chinese symbol for righteousness: 2 symbols--
    - 1. On top is a lamb/beneath the lamb is a person.
  - iv. When God looks down on us, what does He see?
    - 1. Could it be He sees the Lamb of Christ covering us??
    - 2. How does He respond when He sees Jesus?
- d. Read **Zeph.3.17:** “He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

- 13.**Note:** You (I) cannot keep people from rejecting you. But you can keep rejections from raging/irritations from enraging you!
- a. Rejections will come on the road of life---undeniable.
  - b. We are going to be rejected, cut from the team, fired, kicked around.
  - c. How do we react?
    - i. We are accepted by God, the Creator, and His Son sits at His right hand as our friend and mediator pleading our case before Him.

14.Can't we be more accepting of others and less judgmental and rejecting just the same way that God has accepted us.

- 15.Jesus asked in **John 5.6:** “Do you want to be well?”
- a. He can change us if we want to and allow Him to!
  - b. Do you have a better option?
    - i. Move to a deserted island?
    - ii. Move to a “rejection free” zone?

- 16.Let's take our anger, rejection, and lay it at Jesus' feet and He will accept you!!!
- a. We then will have a whole lot less problem accepting others.



## **Lesson 8: Love Thinks No Evil (Not resentful)**

1. Greek: Literally---“does not keep books or an account ledger of evil.”
  - a. Love will keep account of the many kindnesses that it receives but never a record of wrongs done to it.
  - b. Love will not nurse grudges.
  - c. Love makes a concerted effort to forget all wrongs.
    - i. Is this easy to do?

Explain\_\_\_\_\_

2. Research the account of the ship “Pelicano”

- a. Notes:

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3. Why was she so “unwanted?”

- a. The saga started in 1986 with the great Philadelphia municipal workers strike.
- b. Trash filled ships find few friends!
- c. Parable: In your own words write a parable about the Pelicano

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- d. Can you relate at times to the Pelicano?

- i. Describe\_\_\_\_\_

- ii. Does life have a way of unloading its rubbish on our decks?  
Think.

- iii. Trash affects us: relationships, work, anger, guilt, bitterness, anxiety, etc.

- e. How did it affect Cain? Pharisees? Martha (Lazarus’ sister)? Others?

4. **2 Corinthians 10.5:** “We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ.”
  - a. Sometimes we just have to find another “boat” and leave the “Pelicano” at the dock.
  - b. How? ----- Anger? Selfishness? Greed? Grudges?
  
5. **Matt. 16.22-23:** How did Jesus handle Peter’s negativity/presumptiveness?
  
6. **Proverbs 4.23:** “Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.”
  - a. People second guess us---why are they so hard on us?
  - b. I don’t deserve that!
  - c. Doesn’t he/she have any taste?
  - d. Question: Am I going to keep track of (keep a ledger) of these wrongs?
  - e. Remember the Pelicano!!
  - f. Remember: Just because the trash is on the dock, doesn’t mean that you have to pick it up.
  - g. Change the cargo and you change the ship!
  
7. How does the 747 Principle come into play here?
  - a. List all the times God has forgiven you.
  - b. Does God’s downpour of Grace on us come into play here?

8. The same word that Paul uses for “keeps” in the phrase, “**keeps** no list of wrongs” is the same word that is used for “think” in Philippians 4.8.
  - a. “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything praiseworthy, **think** on these things.”
  - b. Thinks: the idea of pondering, studying, and focusing.
  - c. In other words, allow these things to have an impact on our thinking.
  
9. **James 1.5:** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
  - a. Reproach: to cast back into the teeth.”
  - b. He doesn’t “keep a ledger” but forgives us as we confess our sins.
    - i. **1 John 1.9**
  - c. God does not throw back “into our teeth” our requests and petitions.
  - d. He forgives us 70 x 7!

## Lesson 9: Love Does Not Rejoice in Evil (Wrong) but Rejoices in Truth

1. Greek: adikia...means injustice.
  - a. Moffatt: "Love is never glad when others do wrong; love is gladdened by goodness."
2. Love will agonize over sin and condemn the sin but will always yearn to cover and protect the person who has fallen.
  - a. Love never delights or has pleasure in hearing about someone else's fall or trouble.
  - b. Love wants the truth.
  - c. Love is brave enough to face the truth.
  - d. Love always rejoices when truth prevails.
  - e. Love always uses the truth to build up, never to destroy.
3. Love does not ask someone to do what is wrong.
  - a. Examples: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If others prompt evil in you, be alert...they are not your friends.
  - c. Young couple example: "If you really love me then..."
    - i. The "phony love detector" should go off in your mind.
    - ii. True love will never ask someone to do what she thinks is wrong.
4. **1 John 2.10**: "Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light and will not cause anyone to stumble."
  - a. Does my influence a person to do what is right?
5. **1 Corinthians 8.12**: "But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ."

6. **Romans 12.15:** “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

- a. Honesty time: How do you feel when someone succeeds?
  - i. Rejoicing or jealousy?
- b. When someone falls or stumbles? Misfortune?
  - i. Are you sorry or secretly pleased?
- c. Love never celebrates misfortune.
- d. J.B. Phillips: “Love does not gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it shares the joy of those who live by the truth.”

7. You know your love is real when you weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.

8. Catherine Lawes story:

- a. Husband, Lewis became warden of the infamous Sing Sing Prison in 1921.
- b. She often went to the prison to help the inmates.
  - i. Taught braille to a convicted blind murderer.
  - ii. She studied sign language to help the hearing impaired.
  - iii. For 16 years she helped to soften the hearts of a lot of inmates
  - iv. 1937: Catherine was killed in an auto accident.
  - v. Her body was placed in her home (3/4 mile from the prison).
  - vi. The next morning, the inmates were lined up at the main gate peering through the fence toward her home.
  - vii. Many were crying.
  - viii. The warden opened the gates so the hardened criminals could pay their last respects at Catherine’s house.
  - ix. All returned!
  - x. Real love changes people!

9. Didn't God's love change you??

- a. Weren't we blind, deaf to His word, never understanding His great love and kindness toward us?
- b. His love changed us.
- c. 747 Principle.

10.1 **John 4.10**: "In this love, not that we loved God, but that He loves us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

11. Where does this leave us??

a. **Be careful:**

- i. Before you walk down the aisle...if not, walk away.
- ii. Your job; education?
- iii. **1 Thess.5.22**: "avoid even the appearance of evil."

b. **Be Prayerful:**

i. **We can get ourselves into some bad situations**

- 1. Marriages, family situations, friends, etc.
- 2. Get your name on everyone's prayer list.
- 3. Pray with your spouse.
- 4. Pray with your friends.

ii. The same God who raised the dead can resurrect our love.

c. **Be Grateful:**

- i. For those who love you.
- ii. For those who cheered you on to do what is right.
- iii. For your Father who is in Heaven.
- iv. He has never done wrong or tempted anyone to do wrong.
- v. **1 Corinthians 13.6**: "...love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth."



## Lesson 10: Love...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Introduction: Cafeteria line example---

- Wouldn't it be great if love were a cafeteria line??
- It would be easier---I'll take the fried food, desserts, but not okra or asparagus, etc.
  
- Spouses, children, parents, church, etc. Examples\_\_\_\_\_.

  - Pick and choose just the good things that you want.
  - Truth: Love does not just accept a few things---Love is willing to accept all things...the total package. (Not easy)
  - Remember the 747 Principle.
  - The ribbon that wraps up all that the apostle Paul has said so far into this neat package.
  - Greek: "Panta stegei, panta pisteuei, panta elpigei, panta upomenei."
  - Panta: English words...Pantheism (God is all things); Pantry (a cupboard where we can store all things); Panacea (is a cure for all things); Panoply (an array of all things);
  - Panta means: All things.
  - Bottom line: When we love someone, we take the entire package. It is not a cafeteria line of picking and choosing.
  
  - Read 1 Corinthians 1.10-11: "...same mind and judgment..."
    - The Corinthians church had its favorite leaders, its favorite spiritual gifts, its favorite cliques, immorality, lawsuits against one another, etc.
  - For 12 chapters, Paul has tried to untie the knots of disunity.



- Chapter 13: Timeout!
  - The solution: AGAPE love.
  - Agape love cares for others because God cared for us.
  - This type of love is not easy for any of us.
  - Jesus in **Mark 9.19**: “How long must I stay with you? How long must I put up with you?”
  - He was called a liar, He was run out of town, crucified.
  - How long? Jesus...until it kills Me!!

**1. “Love Bears all things”:**

- a. Greek---stegei---“to protect, or preserve by covering, to keep off something that threatens.” It came to mean later to endure.
- b. Love would rather protect than attack.
- c. Love bears the loads of life.
- d. Love must bear/endure the offenses done to us.
- e. C.S. Lewis said, “To love at all is to be vulnerable.”
- f. Love anything and your heart stands the potential of being broken.
- g. Make sure that never happens...never give your heart to anyone.
  - i. Avoid all entanglements;
  - ii. The only place to be completely free of all dangers and be totally safe is...Heaven.
- h. **Galatians 6.1-5**: We must bear one another’s burdens in addition to carrying our own load.
- i. **James 5.19-20**: We must bear the sometimes-distasteful task of attempting to restore wandering brethren.

**2. “Love believes all things.”**

- a. Agape love is not blind gullibility.
- b. However, love is not innately suspicious.
- c. Love strives to ascribe the best motives to others actions.
- d. Love looks for the best in others.
- e. Love takes people at their word as long as it can.
- f. Love mourns over those who stumble and fall.
- g. Love speaks the truth. **Ephesians 4.11-16**.

### 3. "Love hopes in all things."

- a. Even when love is disappointed in someone, love always hopes for better things.
- b. Love never completely despairs completely of anyone.
- c. Jesus never considered anyone completely hopeless.
  - i. He tried to the very end to reclaim Judas Iscariot.
- d. Love is not so naïve to believe that a thief is honest or that a criminal is innocent but it knows that God does not want any to perish.
- e. Love always hope for repentance.

### 4. "Love endures all things."

- a. Greek---hupomenei---literally, "remaining under."
- b. It does not mean passive resignation but the kind of spirit which conquers its setbacks, trials, and circumstances by faith in God.
- c. Love hangs in in spite of the hardships and obstacles that life throws our way.
- d. Job: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand on the earth."
- e. Paul said, "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong." (**2 Corinthians 12.10**).
- f. The church at Corinth was striving for the spectacular spiritual gifts in order to satisfy their egos and in the process was tearing down the church.
- g. Paul inserted this treatise of love in the middle of all their problems in order for them to understand that Christians would be much better off to have agape love for one another than to have all the spiritual gifts.
  - i. No Christian who really loves is inferior to anyone or anything.



## Lesson 11: Finally, Love Never Fails

1. Aren't relationships worth whatever it takes to keep them healthy?
  - a. Husband, wife, kids, Christians, teachers, friends, parents, coworkers, etc.
  - b. People can be difficult---really.
  - c. It is not easy to love those who have been a source of heartache, abuse, rejection, loneliness, or caused you pain.
  - d. Could we be skipping a step? Remember the 747 Principle.
  - e. Explain how this relates to this.
  - f. Have we fully realized that we must receive first fully the depth of God's love for us in all these areas in order to be able to fully implement (love) those people in our lives.
  - g. When we are in our final days on this earth, who will you turn to for comfort?
    - i. Financial statements, college diploma on the wall, your favorite car, properties???
    - ii. What will matter the most is people.
  - h. So, can we seek to strengthen those relationships while we have time?
2. Did the woman in Capernaum didn't forget...remember Luke 7?
  - a. She discovered one truth that Simon had missed...God's love has no limits!
3. The Greek word for fail is used to describe the death of a flower as it falls to the ground, withers, and decays.
  - a. Governments fail
  - b. Your money will run out
  - c. Marriages can and far too often fail
  - d. Our health will fail
  - e. Love never fails!

4. Too often, our love depends on the receiver of the love.
  - a. How they treat us will affect how we love them.
  - b. The receiver regulates our love.
  
5. Not so with God.
  - a. God's love is born from within Him, not from what He finds in us.
  
6. Does God love us because we are so loving?
  - a. Because of our kindness?
  - b. Because of our great faith?
  - c. No. He loves us because of His goodness, kindness, and great faith.
  - d. **1 John 4.10**: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us."
  - e. **Deut. 7.7-8**: "The Lord did not choose you and lavish His love on you because you were larger or greater than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! It was simply because the Lord loves you."
  
7. Others may abandon you, divorce you, and ignore you, but God will love you. Always. No matter what!
  
8. Love is a fruit. See **Galatians 5.22-23**.
  - a. Fruit of the Spirit.
  - b. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

9. **John 15.5:** “I am the vine and you are the branches.”

- a. The branch has one job: to receive nourishment from the vine and to produce the fruit.
- b. Separated from the vine, we can produce nothing.

10. When we remember His patience, we will be more patient with others.

11. When we remember His kindness, we will be more kind to others.

12. When we remember His forgiveness toward us, we will be more forgiving of others.

13. Let's remember the 747 Principle: We will deeply drink in His love for us first, so we can give it to others. Agape love.

- a. This is serious business and oft times not easy, but we do it because He first loved us.

14. We will drink more deeply from Heaven's endless love toward us, and when we do, we will be more inclined to do the same toward others.