

Thanksgiving for the Love of God

1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-19-2023

*Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
For His lovingkindness is everlasting. – Psalm 118:1*

- 1. Be thankful that God is *patient* (4) with you: God is long suffering with us in the midst of our sin and failure; He is not hindered by our unbelief in His love.** *God is long suffering and patient with us, not giving us what we deserve for our sin and failure, even though we put Him to the test with our complaining and false accusations of failing to love us. God's Patience with Job – Job 42:1-6. God's love is not from something good in us; it is love of us because of everything good in him. – Spurgeon*
- 2. Be thankful that God is *kind* (4) to you: God is at work to do us good even when it doesn't look like it or feel like it.** *God is at work to do us good even when circumstances seem contrary to that goal and He even does so through those who have no intent to do us good. God's Kindness to Joseph and His Brothers - Genesis 50:19-20. I have found Christ ten thousand times more kind than I thought. – Spurgeon*
- 3. Be thankful that God is *not jealous* (4) towards you: God isn't out to rob us of our happiness but wants us to be truly happy, even when we are looking for happiness in all the wrong places.** *God does not want to take our happiness away or to selfishly have our happiness; instead, He wants us to have His own happiness and joy! The 1st Miracle of the Best Wine – John 2:1-11. There is nothing in the law of God that will rob you of happiness. – Spurgeon*
- 4. Be thankful that God *does not brag* (4) to you: God speaks the truth in love in order to lift us up; sometimes to bring conviction but never to bring condemnation.** *God is not boasting by speaking the truth and He speaks the truth, not to put us down, but to lift us up in the midst of our sin. Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery – John 8:2-11. Jesus' undefeated, unconquerable love defies your sin and will have you. - Spurgeon*
- 5. Be thankful that God is *not arrogant* (4) with you: God always affirms what is true of Himself and us and is incredibly gentle and tender with us even in the midst of our ignorant tantrums.** *God does not think too highly of Himself, but thinks rightly about Himself which actually makes Him tender toward those in need of Him. God's Tenderness with Jonah – Jonah 4:1-4. Understanding the love of Jesus lifts the mind above all fear. - Spurgeon*
- 6. Be thankful that God *does not act unbecomingly* (5) towards you: God shows us the utmost consideration and, might we say, courtesy, even in the midst of our rudeness.** *God never offends selfishly or unnecessarily, but shows us the greatest courtesy and consideration. Washing the Disciples' Feet – John 13:2-5. God's love does not depend upon what we are; it flows from his own heart. – Spurgeon*
- 7. Be thankful that God *does not seek His own* (5) with respect to you: God always seeks His own glory but at the same time He seeks to pull us into His own self-love so that we might be truly happy.** *God does not simply pursue His own personal interests with no*

regard for His creatures and their happiness. *Preparing a Place* – John 14:1-9. *Because God is infinitely happy, he delights in the happiness of his creatures.* – Spurgeon

8. **Be thankful that God is not provoked (5) by you: God is calm and unflinching in His love for us, even in the face of our struggles and outbursts.** *God is not quick to anger, but slow to anger and certainly isn't touchy with His people. We do not push His buttons as His people. His love doesn't flinch when prodded. Unprovoked by Moses* – Exodus 5:20-23; 6:1. *The Father loves you as much when he is angry as when he smiles upon you.* – Spurgeon
9. **Be thankful that God does not take into account a wrong suffered (5) against you: God does not hold our offenses against us for punishment or prejudice.** *God is not ready to blast us with a list of wrongs or credit us with the worst of evils! God thinks the best of us in Christ even though He is perfectly aware of our past sins. Jesus and Peter After the Denials* – John 21:15-17. *God loves to forgive even more than you love to sin.* - Spurgeon
10. **Be thankful that God does not rejoice in unrighteousness (6) in you or against you: God takes no pleasure in evil, no matter who is committing it, and is never happy with, or indifferent to, the suffering it causes.** *God is never happy with evil and suffering! The Man with the Withered Hand* – Mark 3:1-5. *We would not care for a God who did not hate sin.* - Spurgeon
11. **Be thankful that God rejoices with the truth (6) in your life: God is happy with the truth and all that is right and good and desires to see us set free through it and to walk in it.** *God is happy with what is truly right and loving and good! The Found Sheep and Coin* – Luke 15:1-10. *The inn of God's mercy never closes its doors to sinners.* – Spurgeon
12. **Be thankful that God bears all things (7) for you: God will bear the weight of, and be our support in, all our circumstances and will suffer what must be suffered to bring us what is good.** *God continues to love us and refuses to collapse under the weight of our sin and the suffering it brings. The Message for Peter* – Mark 16:5-8. *Sin cannot sever you from his love; he loves you still.* - Spurgeon
13. **Be thankful that God believes all things (7) with respect to you: God always applies the finished work of Christ to us on all our days – the best and the worst – and believes the best of us 'in Christ' in all our circumstances.** *God reminds us that the finished work of His Son is more than adequate for us and those we love and that He will never reject us even when others do. The Anchor of the Lord's Supper* – Matthew 26:20-29. *God never loves you less, he cannot love you more.* – Spurgeon
14. **Be thankful that God hopes all things (7) with respect to you: God is faithfully fulfilling His promises in all our circumstances no matter what.** *God is fulfilling His promises to us even when it seems just the opposite. The Road to Emmaus* – Luke 24:18-27. *Doubt not his grace because of your tribulation, but believe that he loves you as much in seasons of trouble as in times of happiness.* – Spurgeon
15. **Be thankful that God endures all things (7) for you: God overcomes all opposition in all our circumstances in order to fulfill His good purposes for us to the very end.** *God and His love for us will outlast our sin and our suffering; it will endure all seasons, to the end of all things, whether our lives or the return of Christ. Loving to the End* – John 13:1. *God loves the church with a love too deep for human imagination: he loves her with all his infinite heart.* - Spurgeon