

INTRODUCTION

- Please take your Bibles and turn with me to 1 Corinthians chapter 13
- Last week we looked at the first part of verse 4 where Paul says, "Love is patient, love is kind."
- And we saw by both of those phrases that he is talking about our relationship with people
- This agape love expresses itself in action
- Love is only seen when it acts
- Without action it is only words
- The word patience (makrothumia) is in the present tense to indicate ongoing action
- Love is always patient with people
- It is the state of mind which can bear long when "oppressed or provoked" or "when one seeks to injure [them]" (Barnes, Albert. Notes on the New Testament: I Corinthians. Ed. Robert Frew. London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885. Print.)
- So the word speaks of "self-restraint"
- A person who is patient is "able to avenge himself yet refrains from doing so" (WSNTDICT)

- He "endures injuries inflicted by others" (John MacArthur, The MacArthur NT Commentary: Galatians)
- He has a "calm willingness to accept situations that are irritating and painful" (MacArthur)
- He is free from resentment and revenge and has power over his passions (Richison, Grant. Verse by Verse through the Book of 1 Corinthians. Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2007. Print.)
- The word "kindness" (chrestotes) is also in the present tense
- It is good-natured, gentle, tender, [and] affectionate. (Barnes, Albert. Notes on the New Testament: I Corinthians. Ed. Robert Frew. London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885. Print.)
- The idea is, that under all provocations and ill-usage it is gentle and mild. (Barnes)
- God is our example of patience and lovingkindness
- Romans 2:4 says that it is God's "kindness, tolerance and patience...[that] leads you to repentance."
- Jesus expressed patience to his enemies and shows us the example to follow
- Peter said in 1 Peter 2:21-23, "(21) For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, (22) WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; (23) and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously."
- Now we come to 3 more phrases about love in verse 4

Paul says, Love is "not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant."

Notice the first negative description of love...

Love is Not Jealous (v.4c)

- The word that Paul uses for "jealous" is the Greek word ζηλόω
- This is where we get our English word "zeal"

There are two kinds of zeal:

- Righteous Zeal
 - Exodus 20:5 and Deuteronomy 4:24 says God is a jealous God
 - He will, at times, express His "jealous wrath" (Ps.79:5)
 - Psalm 78:58 shows that He can be provoked to jealousy when it says, "For they provoked Him with their high places And aroused His jealousy with their graven images."
 - So God's jealousy is connected to His holiness
 - He has a righteous zeal for it and for His creation to be holy
 - Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden because of their sin challenged God's holiness

- Satan and a third of the angels were kicked out of heaven because of their rebellion against God's holiness
- Being jealous for holiness is the right kind of zeal that is not sinful

On the other hand, the second meaning is:

- Sinful Perversion
 - Jesus referred to it as "an evil eye" (Mat.20:15, KJV)
 - Paul calls it a work of the flesh in Galatians 5:20

It has two forms:

- One form says, "I want what someone else has."
 - If they have a better car than we do, we want it
 - If they are praised for something they do, we want the same or more for ourselves
 - That sort of jealousy is bad enough
 - A worse kind says, "I wish they didn't have what they have" (see Matt. 20:1–16) (MacArthur, John F., Jr. *1 Corinthians*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.)
- The other is desiring evil for someone else

- An example of this is seen in 1 Kings 3:16-27
- This kind of jealousy is "against any person or thing; *i. e.* to be eager for, or anxious for or against any one.
- In 1 Corinthians 13:4 the meaning is in a bad sense, which is why 12:31, part of the immediate context, should be taken as a statement of fact ("you are now earnestly desiring the greater, or showier, gifts") and not a command to seek "the greater gifts." The Greek word there translated "earnestly desire" is the same as that translated here is ... jealous.
- Other examples of this are seen in:
 - Acts 7:9 says, "The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him."
 - Genesis 37 tells us why:
 - His father loved him more than them
 - He made him a multicolored coat and not one for them
 - He told dreams that suggested he would rule over them
 - Acts 17:1-9, 13
 - James 4:1-2 says, "(1) What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask."

- Jealousy is a work of the flesh (Gal.5:20) and like any deed of the flesh it must be killed (Col.3:5)
- Those who practice this evil will "not inherit the kingdom of heaven" (Gal.5:21)
- As believers, we must "consider the members of your earthly body as deal to" this kind of "passion" (Col.3:5)

Love is not jealous...

Love Does Not Brag (v.4d)

- The word "brag" (*perpereuomai* (περπερεύομαι, 4068), means "to boast or vaunt oneself" (Vine, W. E., Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr. *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* 1996 : 658. Print.) or "to talk conceitedly" (MacArthur)
- It's used in the present tense to indicate ongoing action
- Love never becomes a πέρπερος, a braggard
- The very idea is foreign to its humble nature
- Behind boastful bragging there lies conceit, an overestimation of one's own importance, abilities, or achievements. (Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St. Paul's First and Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1963. Print.)
- Love does not parade its accomplishments
- Bragging is the other side of jealousy

- Jealousy is wanting what someone else has
- Bragging is trying to make others jealous of what we have
- Jealousy puts others down; bragging builds us up
- It is ironic that, as much as most of us dislike bragging in others, we are so inclined to brag ourselves

The Corinthian believers were spiritual show-offs, constantly vying for public attention. They clamored for the most prestigious offices and the most glamorous gifts. They all wanted to talk at once, especially when speaking ecstatically. Most of their tongues-speaking was counterfeit, but their bragging about it was genuine. They cared nothing for harmony, order, fellowship, edification, or anything else worthwhile. They cared only for flaunting themselves. "What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation" (1 Cor. 14:26). Each did his own thing as prominently as possible, in total disregard for what others were doing.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. [1 Corinthians](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

Love realizes that whatever it has is the gift of God, and that there is nothing in man of which to be proud. Even gifts of the Holy Spirit are sovereignly bestowed by God and should not make a person proud or haughty, no matter how spectacular the gift might be.

MacDonald, William. Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments. Ed. Arthur Farstad. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995. Print.

Last Paul says...

Love is Not Arrogant (v.4e)

- This is also translated "puffed up" in the KJV
- It's speaking of pride
- Lenski says, "From envy to boasting, from boasting to puffing oneself up is a natural sequence in the psychology of love-lessness." (Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St. Paul's First and Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1963. Print.)
- The Corinthian believers thought they had arrived at perfection
- Paul already had warned them "not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? You are already filled," he continues sarcastically, "you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and I would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you" (1 Cor. 4:6–8).
- Becoming still more sarcastic, he says, "We [the apostles] are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor" (v. 10). A few verses later the apostle is more direct: "Now some of you have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you" (v. 18).
- Everything good that the Corinthians had came from the Lord, and they therefore had no reason to boast and be arrogant. Yet they were puffed up and conceited about their knowledge of doctrine, their spiritual gifts, and the famous teachers they had had. They were so jaded in their pride that they even boasted about their carnality, worldliness, idolatry, and immorality, including incest, which was not even practiced by pagans (5:1). They were arrogant rather than repentant; they bragged rather than mourned (v. 2). (MacArthur, John F., Jr. [*1 Corinthians*](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.)

- Just as Paul told them to examine their love, he also told the Colossians in Colossians 2:18, "(18) Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind."
- All of us are to do what he said to the Philippians in Philippians 2:1-5, "(1) Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, (2) make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. (3) Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; (4) do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (5) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus."

CONCLUSION

- So love never envies, or brags, or is arrogant, since that is the opposite of selfless service to others. Never rude or overbearing, love never wants its own way, is not irritated or angered in personal offense, and finds no pleasure in someone else's sin, even the sin of an enemy. (MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.)
- Which one describes you?
- Are you patient with others and generous?
- Or are you jealous, bragging about yourself and arrogant?
- Only by the Spirit of God can you have the right kind of love.
- All other attitudes must be killed in your life.
- Being a Christian is the start.

- Jealousy, self-boasting and pride are some of the many sins that Jesus forgave while suffering on the cross for you.
- That's means coming to Him and confessing and repenting of them, He will forgive you.
- If you're not a Christian, you can become one right now by surrendering your life to Jesus Christ.
- Give your life to Him right now as we pray.
- Let's pray.