

INTRODUCTION

- We have the privilege to look once again at the Word of God.
- So let me invite you to take your Bible and turn with me to 1 Corinthians chapter 13.
- Today we are looking at verse 5 as we consider once again, "What Love is Not."
- Paul already stated in verse 4 what love is not.
- He said, [Love] "is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant."
- And now in verse 5, [Love] "does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered."

Recently I read a list of sayings from kids on "What is love, from a kid's point of view?"

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."

"Love is when someone hurts you, and you get so mad, but you don't yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings."

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

[Love from a Kid's Point of View, Citation: "What Is Love—From a Kid's Point of View," LightSinger, (accessed 3-14-02)]

Thomas Watson said, "Faith deals with invisibles, but God hates that love which is invisible."

(Thomas, I. D. E. [The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations](#). electronic ed. Simpsonville, SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1999. Print.)

- That's what we have been learning
- True love is not invisible
- It is manifest

- It is seen by what it does and by what it does not do
- In verses 5 and the first part of verse 6, we are seeing again what love is not

Notice next what it's not...

LESSON

I. Love Is Not Rude (v.5a)

*Someone wrote, "I stood on the streets of a busy town,
Watching men tearing a building down:
With a "Ho, heave, ho," and a lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.
I asked the foreman of the crew,
"Are those men as skilled as those you'd hire if you wanted to build?"
"Ah, no," he said, "no indeed.
Just common labor is all I need.
I can tear down as much in a day or two,
As would take skilled men a year to do."
And then I thought as I went on my way,
Just which of these two roles am I trying to play?
Have I walked life's road with care,
Measuring each deed with rule and square?
Or am I one of those who roam the town,*

Content with the labor of tearing down?

Tan, Paul Lee. Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996. Print.

Paul says...

- Love does not tear down
- It's not rude
- The word "unseemingly" or "unbecomingly" (aschemoneo) is speaking of behavior
- Love does not act disgracefully
- Love does not act dishonoring
- Love does not act shamefully
- Love does not act indecently
- In the words of Ephesians 5:4, "and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."
- Love has speech "seasoned with grace" (Col.4:6)
- So the principle has to do with poor manners
- Rude behavior "does not care enough for those it is around to act becomingly or politely"

- "It cares nothing for their feelings or sensitivities"
- This isn't love
- It's "careless, overbearing, and often crude" (MacArthur, John F., Jr. *1 Corinthians*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.)
- This is exactly what the Corinthians were displaying
- Nearly everything they did was rude and unloving
- When they came together to celebrate the Lord's Supper they were self-centered and offensive. "Each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk" (1 Cor. 11:21).
- During their worship services each one tried to outdo the other in speaking in tongues
- Everyone talked at once and tried to be the most dramatic and prominent
- The church did everything improperly and in disorder, the opposite of what Paul had taught them and now advised them against (14:40) (MacArthur)
- This behavior is characteristic of unbelievers - Romans 1:28-31, "(28) And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, (30) slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, (31) without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful."
- This is how Christ was treated - Matthew 26:67-68, "(67) Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, (68) and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?"

Paul continues by saying...

II. Love is Not Selfish (v.5b)

- This is the key to everything
- Love puts others first
- It looks out for the interests of others (Phil.2:4)
- The root evil of fallen human nature is in wanting to have its own way
- Lenski said, “Cure selfishness and you have just replanted the garden of Eden”
- Adam and Eve rejected God’s way so that they could have their own
- Self replaced God
- That is the opposite of righteousness and the opposite of love
- The Corinthian believers were models of what loving Christians should *not* be:
 - They were selfish in the extreme
 - They did not share their food at love feasts
 - They protected their rights to the point of suing fellow believers in pagan law courts
 - They wanted what they thought were the “best” spiritual gifts for themselves

- Instead of using spiritual gifts for the benefit of others, they tried to use them to their own advantage
- Paul therefore tells them, “Since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church” (14:12)
- They did not use their gifts to build up the church but to try to build up themselves (MacArthur)

Paul told the Philippians that he hoped to send Timothy so that he could learn of their condition. No one else was like him. "For they seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus" (Phil.2:21).

So the Corinthians were to follow what Paul told them earlier in 1 Corinthians 10:24, "(24) Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor."

Continuing in verse 5, Paul says...

III. Love is Not Provoked (v.5c)

The word "Provoked" *paroxuno* (παροξύνω, 3947), primarily, “to sharpen” (akin to A, No. 2), is used metaphorically, signifying “to rouse to anger,” (Vine, W. E., Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* 1996 : 496. Print.)

- Love is not irritated, upset or angered by things said or done against it (MacArthur)
- The being provoked that Paul is talking about here has to do with things done against us or that are personally offensive

- Love does not get angry at others when they say or do something that displeases us or when they prevent us from having our own way (cf. 1 Pet. 2:21–24)
- Love never reacts in self-defense or retaliation (MacArthur)
 - Romans 12:14 says, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."
 - Romans 12:17 says, "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men."
- The Scriptures warn against unrighteous anger
 - Proverbs 14:29 says, "He who is slow to anger has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly."
 - Ecclesiastes 7:9 says, "Do not be eager in your heart to be angry, For anger resides in the bosom of fools."

Love is not rude, selfish, provoked. It also...

IV. Love Does Not Keep Lists (v.5d)

It "does not take into account a wrong suffered"

- The phrase "take into account" (logizomai) "is a bookkeeping term that means to calculate or reckon, as when figuring an entry in a ledger."
- The purpose of the entry is to make a permanent record that can be consulted whenever needed
- In business that practice is necessary, but in personal matters it is not only unnecessary but harmful

- Keeping track of things done against us is a sure way to unhappiness—our own and that of those on whom we keep records
- The same Greek word is used often in the New Testament to represent the pardoning act of God for those who trust in Jesus Christ
- “Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not *take into account*” (Rom. 4:8)
- “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not *counting* their trespasses against them” (2 Cor. 5:19)
- Once sin is placed under the blood of Christ there is no more record of it. It is blotted out, “wiped away” (Acts 3:19)
- In God’s heavenly record the only entry after the names of His redeemed is “righteous,” because we are counted righteous in Christ
- Christ’s righteousness is placed to our credit. No other record exists
- That is the sort of record love keeps of wrongs done against it. No wrong is ever recorded for later reference. Love forgives (MacArthur)

If God so completely and permanently erases the record of our many sins against Him, how much more should we forgive and forget the much lesser wrongs done against us (cf. Matt. 18:21–35; Eph. 4:32)?

Last...

V. Love Does Not Rejoice in Sin (v.6a)

Verse 6 says love "does not rejoice in unrighteousness"

- Love never takes satisfaction from sin, whether our own sin or that of others
- Doing wrong things is bad enough in itself; bragging about them makes the sins even worse
- To rejoice in unrighteousness is to justify it
- It is making wrong appear to be right
- “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil,” Isaiah warns, “who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness” (Isa. 5:20)
- Proverbs 14:9 says, "Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is good will."

Williams MacDonald writes, "There is a certain mean streak in human nature which takes pleasure in what is unrighteous, especially if an unrighteous act seems to benefit one's self. This is not the spirit of love."

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

Conclusion

- As we have been seeing since verse 4, love acts
- There are things it does and things it does not do
- It's patient and kind with people
- It's not jealous, it does not brag and is not arrogant

- It's not rude, selfish or provoked
- It does not keep lists and it does not rejoice in sin
- Does this describe your love?
- Remember the love we have been given came from God through His Spirit
- It has been shed abroad in our hearts by His Spirit (Romans 5:2)
- If your life is characterized by what love is not, then you're not a Christian
- And I urge you to repent right now and turn your life over to Christ
- He died for your sins and paid the penalty for it so you might have life in Him
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
- You are given the righteousness of God when you believe.
- Believe in Him now as we pray.