

Love – Part 2: Love Is...

1 Corinthians 13:4

Years ago, there was a comic strip called “Love is...” Here are a few panels:

Love is...



not asking how much her dress cost.

Love is...



telling her that her new dish is delicious, even when it's not so.

Love is...



making pancakes on Saturday morning.

Love is...



being able to keep cool when he makes the floors dirty right after you have cleaned them.

Love is...



going out for pizza when she is too tired to cook.

Love is...



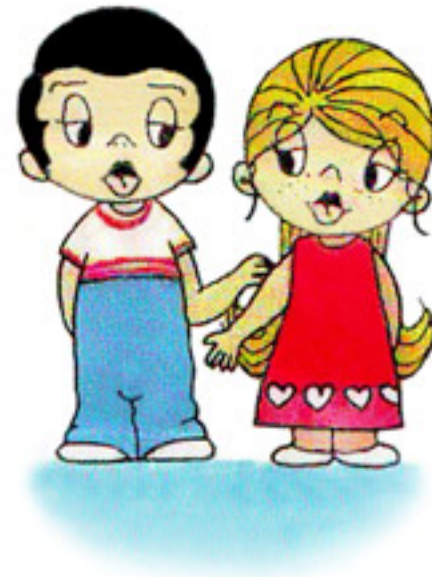
not being suspicious when he forgets an appointment.

Love is...



counting to 10 instead of shouting.

Love is...



deciding what is correct instead of who is right.

Love is...



forgiving even if you are really angry.

The world has lots of different ideas about what love is – some of them meaningful, some moving, some sappy, some shallow, some true, some wrong. We can trust that He Who epitomizes love, in fact, He Who is Love, can give us the true meaning of love. Today, we'll continue in our study of 1 Cor. 13 with verse 4.

John MacArthur says, "That's Paul's description of love. You didn't see anything abstract or ideological, did you? The entire description is in terms of behavior. In fact, Paul's description of love is similar to what happens when a beam of light hits a prism. As the prism divides a single beam of light into all of its colors, so the Apostle Paul takes the concept of love, shoots it into the prism, and comes out with fifteen different colors--all of which describe the perfections that make up the one reality of love. First Corinthians 13:4-7 is the spectrum of love...love in action."

Passage:

⁴Love is patient, love is kind, *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

Ἡ ἀγάπη μακροθυμεῖ χρηστεύεται ἡ ἀγάπη, οὐ ζηλοῖ, [ἡ ἀγάπη] οὐ περπερεύεται οὐ φυσιοῦται,

NET

Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up.

NIV

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

NASB

Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

NLT

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

MSG

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head,

BBE

Love is never tired of waiting; love is kind; love has no envy; love has no high opinion of itself, love has no pride;

NRSV

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant

NKJV

Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

Phillips: - This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience - it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

Wuest: Love meekly and patiently bears ill treatment from others. Love is kind, gentle, benign, pervading and penetrating the whole nature, mellowing all which would have been harsh and austere; is not envious. Love does not brag, nor does it show itself off, is not ostentatious, does not have an inflated ego,

Gal. 5:22-26 - ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

«5:22» Ὁ δὲ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματός ἐστιν ἀγάπη χαρὰ εἰρήνη, μακροθυμία χρηστότης ἀγαθωσύνη, πίστις «5:23» πραύτης ἐγκράτεια· κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος. «5:24» οἱ δὲ τοῦ Χριστοῦ [Ἰησοῦ] τὴν σάρκα ἑσταύρωσαν σὺν τοῖς παθήμασιν καὶ ταῖς ἐπιθυμίαις. «5:25» εἰ ζῶμεν πνεύματι, πνεύματι καὶ στοιχῶμεν. «5:26» μὴ γινώμεθα κενόδοξοι, ἀλλήλους προκαλοῦμενοι, ἀλλήλοις φθονοῦντες.

Break It Down:

First remember that every instance of the word “love” is the Greek word “agape.”

And second, note that while in English love is defined in terms of adjectives, in the Greek, each of the words are verbs. The focus of the passage is about behavior.

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/sg1864.htm>

Love is patient –

What does this mean to you? _____

3114 μακροθυμεω makrothumeo *mak-roth-oo-meh'-o*
KJV - be patient 3, have patience 2, have long patience 1, bear long 1, suffer long 1, be longsuffering 1, patiently endure 1; 10

Charity suffereth long] μακροθυμει, *Has a long mind*; to the end of which neither trials, adversities, persecutions, nor provocations, can reach. The *love of God*, and of our *neighbour* for God's sake, is patient towards all men: it suffers all the weakness, ignorance, errors, and infirmities of the children of God; and all the malice and wickedness of the children of this world; and all this, not merely for a *time*, but *long*, without end; for it is still a *mind* or *disposition*, to the *end* of which trials, difficulties, &c., can never reach. It also waits God's time of accomplishing his gracious or providential purposes, without murmuring or repining; and bears its own infirmities, as well as those of others, with humble submission to the will of God.

“Chrysostom, the early church father, said, “It is the word which is used of the man who is wronged and who has it easily in his power to avenge himself but will never do it.” That's the word. It is the spirit which never retaliates. It describes the person who never ever gets angry.” – MacArthur

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

How would your house be different if this aspect of love reigned? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-christians? _____

Abraham Lincoln made a lot of friends, but he also made some enemies. One of his most outspoken enemies was a man named Stanton. Stanton just despised Lincoln. In fact, in print he called him “a low, cunning clown.” On one occasion, he nicknamed him “the original gorilla,” and said that it was ridiculous for people to go to Africa to find a gorilla, when they could easily find one in Springfield, Illinois. He was very bitter toward Lincoln, but Lincoln never replied to any of Stanton's attacks. He never said a word to him. However, when it came time to choose a war minister for the United States government, Lincoln chose Stanton. When asked why he chose someone who had opposed him so vehemently, Lincoln replied, “Because he's the best man for the job.”

The years wore on until that fateful day of Lincoln's assassination. His biographer writes, “The night when the assassin's bullet tore out Lincoln's life, in the little room to which the President's body was taken, there stood that same Stanton. Looking down into the silent face of Lincoln in all its ruggedness, he spoke the following words through his tears: ‘There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen.’” He never accepted Lincoln's politics, but he couldn't resist the nonretaliating spirit of the man. Love forgives seventy times seven when it's been wronged.

Love is kind –

What does this mean to you? _____

5541 χρηστευομαι chresteuomai *khra-ste-yoo'-om-ahee*
KJV - be kind 1; 1

Is kind] χρηστευεται. It is tender and compassionate in itself, and *kind* and *obliging* to others; it is mild, gentle, and benign; and, if called to suffer, inspires the sufferer with the most amiable sweetness, and the most tender affection. It is also submissive to all the dispensations of God; and creates trouble to no one.

“Kindness is the flip side of patience. Long-suffering endures the injuries of others, and kindness pays them back with good deeds. Long-suffering says, “I'll take anything from my enemies,” but kindness says, “I'll give anything to my enemies to meet their need.” Now, that's the essence of kindness. It's just the other side of long-suffering.” - MacArthur

“In the Greek, the root word for kindness means “useful.” So Paul is saying, “I will do anything that will be of use to another—even my enemy. I will live my life to benefit others. ... Love is not an abstract concept; it's a deed of kindness, a deed of generosity, an act that you do for someone who has a need. When Jesus said, “Love your enemies...” (Mt. 5:44a), He didn't say, “Feel good about them.” However, in that same verse, He did say, “...do good to them...” – MacArthur

"In Matthew 11:29-30, Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me....For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." The word "easy," in the Greek, is the same word that is translated "kind" in 1 Corinthians 13. Jesus is simply saying, "Join up with Me and I'll express My kindness to you." It's a tremendous thought.

Kindness can heal the hurts of the world, as well as the hurts in your family. Let me ask you, married people, are you kind to each other? Is your first thought, "What can I do that would be useful, helpful, and meaningful to my partner?"...just after you've been irritated or hurt? Do you think to yourself, "How can I repay their anger with kindness?" or "How can I repay their hurt with something useful and good that they need to have done?"

Let me ask you, parents, are you kind to your children? Do they sense a tenderness in you? Do you go out of your way to do kind things for them, or do you try to buy them off because of your lack of kindness? Do you go the second mile with them, or can you not be bothered? Are you willing to make some sacrifices to be helpful to them? Now that gets real practical in our house. "Dad," my son says to me, "would you help me study for my test?" Well, that would be the kind thing to do, wouldn't it? That's what it comes down to...that's the bottom line. Love is kind, heals wounds, and waits patiently. It endures anything, never retaliates, and only returns kindness." - MacArthur

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-Christians? _____

Not jealous –

What does this mean to you? _____

2206 ζηλω zeloo dzay-lo'-o or
ζηλευ zeleuo dzay-loo'-o

KJV - zealously affect 2, more with envy 2, envy 1, be zealous 1, affect 1, desire 1, covet 1, covet earnestly 1, misc 2; 12

Charity envieth not] ου ζηλοι. Is not grieved because another possesses a greater portion of earthly, intellectual, or spiritual blessings. Those who have this pure love rejoice as much at the happiness, the honour, and comfort of others, as they can do in their own. They are ever willing that *others* should be preferred before *them*.

1 Cor. 3:3 - for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Prov. 27:4 - Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, But who can stand before jealousy?

Biblical examples of jealousy – Cain, Joseph's brothers, prodigal son's brother

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-Christians? _____

A great example of love not being jealous is Jonathan. He was never jealous of David, though he was next in line to be king.

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/sg1865.htm>

Love does not brag –

What does this mean to you? _____

4068 περπερευομαι perpereuomai per-per-yoo'-om-ah-ee
KJV - vaunt itself 1; 1

(4.) **Charity vaunteth not itself**] ου περπερευεται. This word is variously translated; *acteth not rashly, insolently*; is not *inconstant*, &c. It is not agreed by learned men whether it be *Greek, Latin, or Arabic*. Bishop Pearce derived it from the latter language; and translates it, *is not inconstant*. There is a phrase in our own language that expresses what I think to be the meaning of the original, does not *set itself forward*—does not desire to be noticed or applauded; but wishes that God may be all in all.

"Love vaunteth not itself, seeketh not her own. I'll be the doorkeeper. I'll be the slave. I'll be the servant. I'll wash feet. That is the spirit of our Master and of us who are His true disciples if God shall help us so to be." – WA Criswell

"But there are also more subtle, refined, acceptable ways of expressing our pride—like bringing the conversation back again and again to ourselves and what we've done, or even more subtly by constantly talking about our woundedness or our sadness, and about how badly things have gone for us. Self-pity and boasting are both forms of pride: one is pride in the heart of the weak, and the other is pride in the heart of the strong." – John Piper

"The Greek word that tells us love is not boastful, comes from a root word meaning "windbag." Boastfulness is just the verbalizing, the windbag, the hot air that comes out of the mouth of a proud, conceited person. Incidentally, this word is used only in this verse in the entire New Testament. Love is not a windbag. Love is not always shooting off its mouth about its own accomplishments. Love does not speak an arrogant, baseless chatter that is designed to make me look better than you.

Bragging is an effort to make other people feel inferior because of what you are or what you have. In other words, it is the flip side of envy. Notice, in verse 4, that he says, "Love doesn't envy," and then turns it around and says, "Love doesn't brag." Envy is wanting something that other people have, and bragging is making people want what you have." - MacArthur

"We all have at least one thing that we can do fairly well. And whatever it is, we usually let a few folks know about it, don't we? Boasting is nothing more than blinding self-centeredness--the desire to make somebody else envy. It's a sin not only because it's a wrong thing to do, but because it makes somebody else jealous. Boasting makes your brother stumble." – MacArthur

Are you always the topic of your conversation?

"In John 12:49a, Jesus says, "For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father, who sent Me...." How many of you can say that? How many of you at the end of one day can say, "God, I have not spoken of myself today"? We should be able to say that!" – MacArthur

"Empty trucks make the most noise."

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-Christians? _____

Is not arrogant –

What does this mean to you? _____

5448 φυσιοω phusioo *foo-see-o'-o*
KJV - puff up 7; 7

(5.) **Is not puffed up**] ου φυσιοῦνται. Is not *inflated* with a sense of its own importance; for it knows it has nothing but what it has received; and that it deserves nothing that it has got. Every man, whose heart is full of the love of God, is full of humility; for there is no man so humble as he whose heart is cleansed from all sin. It has been said that indwelling sin humbles us; never was there a greater *falsity*: PRIDE is the very essence of *sin*; he who has sin has *pride*, and pride too in proportion to his sin: this is a mere popish doctrine; and, strange to tell, the doctrine in which their doctrine of *merit* is founded! They say God leaves concupiscence in the heart of every Christian, that, in striving with and overcoming it from time to time, he may have an accumulation of meritorious acts: Certain Protestants say, it is a true sign of a very gracious state when a man *feels* and deplores his inbred corruptions. How near do these come to the Papists, whose doctrine they profess to detest and abhor! The truth is, it is no

sign of grace whatever; it only argues, as they use it, that the man has got *light* to show him his corruptions; but he has not yet got grace to *destroy* them. He is convinced that he should have the mind of Christ, but he feels that he has the mind of Satan; he deplores it, and, if his bad doctrine do not prevent him, he will not rest till he feels the blood of Christ cleansing him from all sin.

"You'll notice that the phrase "love vaunteth not itself" is followed by the statement, "is not puffed up." Now those statements may seem like synonyms or parallels, but they aren't. There's a difference. The first statement represents the verbalizing of pride, the actual speech of pride, the actual action of pride. The second statement represents the attitude of pride--conceit that is down inside." – MacArthur

Context:

1 Cor. 4:7-10 - ⁷For 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? ⁸You are already filled, 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. ⁹For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. ¹⁰We 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.

1 Cor. 5:1-2 - ¹It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. ²And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst.

1 Cor. 8:1b - Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

After hearing the explanation, what would you add / subtract from your earlier definition? _____

How should this aspect of love apply to you in your marriage? _____

Your parenting? _____

Your church relationships? _____

Your relationships with non-Christians? _____

Conclusion:

What would you say is the core message of today's passage (13:4)?

Is there any practical lesson you can walk away with from today's passage?