

The Centrality of Love – Part 2

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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What is the “most excellent way?” (12:31b)

It is important to realize that the descriptions Paul gives love in vss 4-7 are, in the Greek text, _____.

They don’t focus on what love _____, so much as on what love _____ and _____.

Agape is _____ not _____ or _____.

Agape is fully love only when it _____.

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18 NIV

We cannot truly begin to understand love until we begin to _____ it in our lives.

Agape is:

1) _____ - used almost exclusively of being patient with _____ rather than circumstances.

Love’s patience is the ability to be _____ or _____ by a person over and over and yet not be upset or angry.

Patience never _____.

2) Love is _____ - just as patience will _____ anything from others, kindness will _____ anything to others, even to _____.

3) Love does not _____ or is not _____.

Envy/ jealousy has two forms:

1.

2.

-see 1 Kings 3:16-27

-What characterized the true mother? The false mother?

- What may be one of the hardest battles a Christian must fight? Why?

What was the issue in Philippians 1:15-18? What was Paul’s main concern in all of this? What is the lesson for you?

In contrast to the many accounts of jealousy in scripture – is the account of _____.

4) When the loving person is him/herself successful he/she does not _____ or _____ about it.

Love does not _____ its accomplishments.

Bragging/boasting is the _____ of envy/jealousy.

Jealousy/envy is _____ what someone else has – bragging, boasting is trying to make others _____ of what we have.

Jealousy puts others _____, boasting builds us _____

Jesus was God in the flesh, yet never exalted Himself in any way – see Philippians 2:6-8.

5) Love is not _____ or _____.

What is Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 4:6-8, 10, 18?

Proverbs 8:13 says "*I hate _____ and _____, _____ behavior and perverse speech.*"

Proverbs 11:2 – When pride comes, then comes _____.

Proverbs 13:10 – Pride only breeds _____.

Proverbs 16:18 – Pride goes before _____ a haughty spirit before a _____.

Proverbs 29:23 – A man's pride brings him _____.

Pride/arrogance is _____ but

Love is _____.

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 (10 being perfect)

Patience: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10

Kindness: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10

Envy: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10

Boasting: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10

Pride: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10

What do you need to improve? What is your plan? How will accountability play a part?

What are you learning about yourself? God?