

Introduction: 1 Cor 13:4-8

- Agape Love - selfless, sacrificing love.
- It is the highest kind of love known. It is how God loves. It gives and gives and expects nothing in return to stay motivated to love more.

I. Love Is Patient And Kind

- A. The word 'patient' comes from a Greek word meaning 'long duration to anger.'
 1. This person does not know when to stop, quit or give up.
 2. Agape becomes more determined as the struggle intensifies.
 3. Agape love prevents you from giving up on people.
- B. Agape is kind. 'Kind' comes from a Greek word meaning to be compliant to the needs of others. Agape love helps you to change to become what others need you to be.
 1. It considers others before itself. Jesus was kind to lepers, bleeding women, demoniacs, etc.
 2. He became what they needed Him to be. He touched those that society had marginalized and brought them back in.
 3. Ie. Jesus was kind to the woman caught in adultery and was about to be stoned.
 - a) He rebuked her accusers, showed her kindness.
 - b) And told her to sin no more.
- C. God's love is patient and kind! That's who He is.

II. Love Does Not Envy, Boast or Act Arrogant "... love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant" (1 Corinthians 13:4, ESV)

- A. Envy comes from the Greek word 'Zelos,' from which we get the word zealot.
 1. One who is envious is zealous about getting his own personal plans and desires, even at the expense of others.
 2. You could quickly call this person self-centered and ambitious.
 3. He does not consider the needs of others. It is the opposite of being kind. Agape is kind; it does not envy.
 4. Real love does not think of itself first; it thinks of others first.
- B. Agape does not boast.
 1. The word boast comes from a word that means 'lots of self-talk.'
 2. It describes a person who continually promotes and exaggerates about himself.
 3. It also describes a person who never seems to stop talking because they think what they have to say is so important. It is annoying!
 4. Agape love is so secure it does not need to speak about itself. Agape wants to focus on others and edify them because they are valuable.
- C. Agape love is never arrogant.

1. To be arrogant is to be puffed up with thoughts and words about oneself. It thinks too highly of itself because of pride.
2. Agape never does this because it thinks too highly of others. So, what do you see as you look into the mirror of God's word?

III. Love Keeps No Record Of Wrongs

A. Love keeps no record of wrongs.

1. Keeping records of wrongs is so easy because, most often, they are associated with pain, and pain has a way of impacting us.
2. Love keeps no record of wrongs because love is quick to forgive.
 - a) If you are holding a list of wrongs done to you, chances are you living with unforgiveness.
 - b) Unforgiveness is a silent killer of people. It eats away at the soul like cancer. Take time to check your list. Forgive those who have hurt you. Remember Jesus' word, "Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing."
3. Agape love gives and gives and expects nothing in return to stay motivated to love more.

B. Love is not rude.

1. We have all experienced someone being rude to us.
2. Rudeness is **dishonorable behavior** towards another.
3. It is not living up to kingdom standards in our interactions with others. Love is honorable towards others.

C. Love is not selfish.

1. Therefore it does not demand its own way.
2. Love considers others better than itself.
3. Agape Love is 'others' focused and has others in mind or more important than itself.

D. Love is not irritable.

1. This means that love is not easily provoked, irritated, or stirred to anger.
2. What does it take to get you provoked, irritated, or angry?
3. To be quickly stirred to anger or irritated is unbecoming of a Christian because it separates and divides people.

IV. Love Rejoices With The Truth! Love... "does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth." (1 Corinthians 13:6, ESV)

A. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul characterizes agape love by continuing to list the qualities of agape love. It DOES Not rejoice at wrongdoing.

1. Have you ever secretly or openly rejoiced when someone you dislike had fallen upon hard times or difficulties? You may have even said, "*Serves him right! He*

deserved that."

2. Let it be known that this is not how God reacts.
 3. The word 'rejoice' is used twice in verse six. Rejoice comes from the Greek word 'chairō,' which means to be filled with joy and gladness.
 - a) In the first instance, Paul says that those filled with agape love do not rejoice at people we dislike encountering difficult times. Love does not feel thrilled by others' misfortunes. Love does not rejoice at injustice, dishonesty, or wrong.
 - b) The second part of the verse says that love rejoices with the truth or is delighted with the truth!
 - c) Love is thrilled at the expressions of good and righteousness in people's lives.
- B. How we respond to other people's misfortunes or their promotions is important to God.
1. Do you rejoice at others' healings? Are you thrilled when others experience blessings? What about those you dislike?
 2. Are you secretly smiling when they encounter trouble?
 3. Love does not rejoice at injustice or things done wrong. But, it does rejoice in thrilled ways at the truth. How you respond to other people's trouble or blessings says much about you and your level of spiritual maturity. Love rejoices with the truth!

V. Love Does Not Quit "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7, ESV)

- A. These next four are words of intensity.
- B. Number one, love bears all things! 'Bears' comes from the Greek word 'stego,' meaning to cover, protect, and shield. When agape love is near, it covers people like a roof to protect and shield them.
- C. Number two, love believes all things. 'Believes' means putting faith or trust in someone or something. Faith has the ability to believe the best in every situation. It makes no room for doubt but chooses to see the best. Agape love believes the best in people. It refuses to give up. It does not know how to quit. This is how our God loves us!
- D. Three, love hopes all things. It always expects and anticipates the best. The Greek word 'elpidzo' means an expectation of good things. The agape of God always expects the best in others. It lives anticipating the best being seen in others. Again, it refuses to quit or give up expecting!
- E. Four, agape love endures all things! The word 'endures' comes from a word meaning to abide under or stay under. It is a picture of a person under orders to do a thing. They are not allowed to surrender or give in. This gives us the picture of the facet of agape love that will never throw in the towel! God never quits on anyone, and neither

should we! Love bears all, believes all, hopes all, and endures all. Love does not quit! It is committed to the end! That's intense!

VI. Love Never Fails "Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. ..." (1 Corinthians 13:8, AMP)

- A. What a powerful statement! Love never fails! Think about what you just read: Love never fails. Paul has just shared fifteen characteristics of agape love, and his summary is: Love never fails!
 - 1. People may let you down. You may let yourself down, but love never fails.
- B. The word translated fail in our passage is the Greek word 'pipto.' It means to fall from a high position or to plunge from an elevated place. Sometimes it was used to speak of a great warrior who dies in battle. 'Pipto' or 'fails' speaks of ruin, destruction, and disappointment. But Paul is saying that agape love will never fall, never fail, and never disappoint!
- C. The word 'never' is written to communicate "Never! Not ever! At no time" will love ever fall, fail, or discourage. This kind of love, agape love, will never come to an end or become obsolete. With this kind of love in our hearts, it must be understood and realized that this kind of love is dependable!

Conclusion:

- A. This love is the God kind of love, agape love. It is the highest love known to humanity. It is how God loves. It gives and gives and expects nothing in return to stay motivated to love all the more. Oh, that the church excels in living and giving this kind of love away to family, acquaintances, and strangers. LOVE NEVER FAILS!!!