

## Characteristics Of Love 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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### ▶ *Love suffers long ...*

- Slowness to anger or passion; patient (Hebrews 10:36; James 5:11) forbearance and endurance of wrong.
- To be patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; to be long-suffering, slow to anger, slow to punish 1 Corinthians 13:4 (Thayer)

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### ▶ *Love suffers long ...*

- Overcoming the natural impulse to just displeasure. Ephesians 4:1-3; cf. 1 Peter 2:23; Colossians 3:12-13
- Here we see the state of mind which can endure trials when oppression comes.
  - cf. Revelation 2:2-3 Church at Ephesus.
  - cf. Revelation 2:18-19 Church at Thyatira.

### ▶ *Love is kind.*

- Kindness denotes good-nature, gentle, tender, affectionate.
- Love is not harsh, sour, or ill-natured. Ephesians 4:31-32.
- Politeness and courteousness are results of love.

### ▶ *Love envies not.*

- Envy and jealousy are related. To envy is to feel uneasiness, or discontent at the sight of another's accomplishments; whether it be learning, wealth, beauty, reputation, or success.
- This was especially true among these Corinthians.
- *Proverbs 14:30, "Envy is the rottenness of the bones."*
- Paul lists *envyings* among the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19) and says that "*They who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*"
- Peter said, we should "*Put away ... all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and envies, and all evil speaking ...*" 1 Peter 2:1.

### ▶ *Love vaunteth not itself.* ... does not thrust itself forward, nor take the higher seats in the synagogue (cf. Luke 14:7-11) "Parading ones superiority unto others."

- Here the thought is expressed of boasting or vaunting of one's own excellencies or endowments. Proverbs 27:2
- In Romans 1:30 Paul lists boasting in a number of sins, those who practice such things are worthy of death.
- No one who loves another is disposed to boast of his own qualities over them.

▶ ***Is not puffed up ...*** Inflated opinions of one's self (cf. Romans 12:3)

- This differs from vaunting ones self in that it deals with the very feeling itself of pride and self-esteem ... the other deals with the expression.
- Pride and vanity is ugly.  
*Proverbs 8:13, "Pride, and arrogance ... do I hate."*  
*Proverbs 16:5, "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord."*

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▶ ***Does not behave itself unseemly ...***

- He is careful to avoid every form of evil.
- Love would cause one to conduct himself properly and honorably, above reproach.
- How great it would be if all Christians would manifest this one characteristic of love.
  - Language, morals, dress, improper allusions, and implications. Ephesians 4:29; 1 Timothy 2:9

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▶ ***Seeketh not her own ...***

- One who has the proper love for God and for others IS NOT SELFISH.

*1 Corinthians 10:24, "Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good." ASV*  
*Galatians 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."*  
*Philippians 2:2-4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*  
Philippians 2:19-21 – Example of Timothy.  
cf. Paul 1 Corinthians 9:22-23; 10:33; 2 Corinthians 7:3; Romans 15:2 Seek the welfare of others with self-denial, personal sacrifice, and toil.

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▶ ***Is not easily provoked.***

Not likely to take offense readily, not easily excited to anger.

- Slow to anger or wrath. cf. James 1:19.

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▶ ***Thinketh no evil.***

Does not surmise evil and put the worst construction on the acts of others. Does not attribute evil motives to others.

- This means we ought to put the best possible construction on the motives and conduct of others.
- One who loves as he should will not be malicious or disposed to faultfinding.
  - "If you can't say anything good ... don't say anything."

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▶ ***Rejoiceth not in iniquity ...***

- We ought not rejoice over the faults of others. cf. Romans 1:28-32.
- Samuel for Saul. 1 Samuel 15
- Paul for the Jewish brethren. Romans 9:1-3; 10:1.

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➤ **Rejoiceth in the truth.**

- cf. 2 John 4; cf. Ephesians 4:15; 3 John 12  
cf. *Proverbs 17:15*, "He that justifieth the wicked and he that condemneth the righteous. Both of them alike are an abomination to Jehovah."
- Do not rejoice in the error of a brother, but rejoice in his virtues. cf. Philippians 1:12–18. (cf. Galatians 5:15).
- Gossip ... cf. those who rejoice in iniquity. James 3:5ff

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• **Love Beareth all things.**

- Covereth all things ... the faults of others. "*Love covereth a multitude of sins.*" 1 Peter 4:8
- As much as it is possible, seek to resolve faults and imperfections of others. cf. Matthew 18:15ff; cf. 1 Peter 4:7–8

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▶ **Believeth all things ... hopeth all things ...**

- Hope is based on faith. Hebrews 11:1. Faith comes by hearing, Romans 10:17, therefore we should believe all that God declares.
- ▶ **Endureth all things.** Bears up under and does not murmur. cf. Philippians 2:12ff.
- ▶ **Conclusion: Love never fails ... Verse 8.**

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