



LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND.

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1 CORINTHIANS 13:4a

THOUGHTS ON LOVE FROM THE BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

1. LOVE is perfectly DEFINED and PERSONIFIED by God’s ACTIVITY in the GOSPEL.
2. True LOVE is only the result of the HOLY SPIRIT’S presence in the life of the CHRISTIAN.
3. LOVE is not the end goal → it is a vehicle used to GLORIFY God and BUILD up the CHURCH.
4. MAN is neither the CREATOR, nor the CULTIVATOR of LOVE in his own life, and thus, WE do not get to determine whom we LOVE.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- PATIENT: Love that is NOT EASILY PROVOKED by those who ill-treat it; it understands the RIGHT TIME and the right DEGREE with which to RESPOND.
 - “Love does not blunder in.” – Anthony C. Thiselton, *New International Greek Testament Commentary*
- KIND: “Love reacts with goodness towards those who ill-treat it; it gives itself in kindness in the service of others.” – Leon Morris

PATIENCE AND KINDNESS MODELED

- Love is PATIENT: God is SLOW to ANGER, even toward a deliberately sinful people.
 - Cf. Exodus 34:6; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 86, 103; Joel 2:13; **Jonah 4**
- Love is KIND: God is GENTLE and compassionate with sinners, treating us with undeserved sweetness.
 - Cf. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; John 9; **Matthew 18:29-34**; Ephesians 2:1-10; Matthew 19:14

THE HOPE OF PATIENCE AND KINDNESS

- The PRIMARY goal of love that is PATIENT and KIND is that people will recognize their sin, see the goodness of God, repent and be SAVED.
 - Romans 2:4 – “Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”
 - 2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US TODAY?

1. REFLECT on the patience and kindness God showed us through the gospel.
2. RECITE the gospel to ourselves consistently.
3. REFUEL through reading Scripture and prayer.
4. RUN with the strength provided through the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives.
5. REJOICE in victories, when you see the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life.