

I. Introduction: Paul encouraged the Corinthians to love God's people with sacrificial love, and then he described to them what that kind of love looked like.

- A. The Apostle told the believers in Corinth that God's love is alive. He described love using fifteen different verbs, showing that love is not an emotion; it is an action.

II. The Description of Love (1 Cor 13:4-7).

- A. Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly ["behave rudely"] (v. 5).
- B. Love Does Not Seek Its Own ["Isn't self-seeking"] (v. 5).
- C. Love Is Not Provoked ["doesn't fly off the handle"] (v. 5).
- D. Love Does Not Take Into Account a Wrong ["doesn't keep records of sins"] (v. 5).
- E. Love Does Not Rejoice in Unrighteousness ["doesn't revel when others fail"] (v. 6).

III. Conclusion: Paul elevated love as the greatest virtue that the Corinthians could possess and described it as active service in the body of Christ.

Questions About: The Description of Love

1. How would you describe love? How does God define it? **(1 Cor 13:4-7)** How do Christians know what love is like? **(1 John 4:19-21)** Why is love impossible without God's power?
2. What does it mean to "act unbecomingly"? **(1 Cor 13:4)** Have you ever had someone act rudely toward you in church? How should you respond to rude believers? **(Eph 4:29)**
3. How does love, "not seek its own"? **(1 Cor 13:5)** How did Jesus show selfless love? **(Phil 2:5-8)** How can we seek the good of others in the church? How can you serve others?
4. What does it mean that love is not provoked? **(1 Cor 13:5)** Can anger ever be good? **(Matt 21:12-13; Acts 17:16)** Has a Christian ever made you mad? How did you respond?
5. What does it mean that love does not "take into account a wrong suffered"? **(1 Cor 13:5)** How did Jesus tell us to love one another? **(Matt 18:21-35)** How has God forgiven you?
6. What does it mean that love does not "rejoice in unrighteousness"? **(1 Cor 13:6)** How do some rejoice in sin? **(Rom 1:28-32)** Why would a person rejoice in another's sin?
7. Do you find that it is difficult to love the way the Bible tells you to love? How is this kind of love supernatural? **(Gal 5:22-24)** Why do we need the Holy Spirit's power to love people?
8. In what way do you need to love God's people? Have you been rude? Self-seeking? Are you easily provoked? Are you keeping records of others' sins? Do you rejoice in their failures?

Prayer

1. Ask God to show you how you should love His people the way He loves them.
2. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit so that you can love others this way.