

I. Introduction: Paul encouraged the Corinthians to love God's people with sacrificial love, and then he described what God's love looked like in the life of a believer.

A. The Apostle told the believers in Corinth that God's love is active. Paul described love using fifteen different verbs. Love is not a feeling; it is defined by what it does.

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

A. Love Is Patient ["Suffers long; long tempered"] (v. 4).

B. Love Is Kind ["Actively generous; useful; serving; gracious"] (v. 4).

C. Love Is Not Jealous ["Does not envy"] (v. 4).

D. Love Does Not Brag ["Parade itself"] (v. 4).

E. Love Is Not Arrogant ["Puffed up"] (v. 5).

F. Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly ["Behave rudely"] (v. 5).

G. Love Does Not Seek Its Own ["Isn't self-seeking"] (v. 5).

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 the world define love? How is that different than God's definition? (**1 Cor 13:4-7**) Why does God describe love as a verb?
2. What does it mean that love is patient? (**1 Cor 13:4**) How do we show patience with people in the church? How does God model patience? What opportunities do you have to be patient?
3. What does it mean to be "kind" to others? (**1 Cor 13:4**) What principles did Jesus teach about kindness? (**Matt 5:40-42**) What is evil about indifference? (**1 John 3:17**)
4. Have you ever found yourself envious of what another believer had? (**1 Cor 13:4**) According to James, why do Christians fight? (**James 4:1-4**) What's the solution? (**James 4:6-7**)
5. What does it mean that love "does not brag"? (**1 Cor 13:4**) What complaint did John's disciples have? (**John 3:25-31**) What did John do rather than exalt himself? (**John 3:30**)
6. What is the difference between "bragging" and "arrogance"? (**1 Cor 13:4**) Why is arrogance a problem for Christians? (**Prov 3:5-7; Rom 12:3**) What is the opposite of arrogance?
7. What does it mean to not "act unbecomingly"? (**1 Cor 13:4**) Have you ever had someone act rudely toward you in church? How should you respond to rudeness? (**Eph 4:29**)
8. How does love, "not seek its own"? (**1 Cor 13:5**) How did Jesus display this kind of love? How do you seek the good of others first? What ways do you need to change?

Prayer

1. Ask God to show you how you should love the church the way He wants you to love it.
2. Ask God to give you the power to change, so that you love the church the way He does.