

## Part 1 Love is, Love is not

I. Love \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Love.

### II. Agape Love and Hesed Love

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Ephesians 17b-19 being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### III. What is the Way of Agape Love?

### IV. What are the Virtues of Agape Love?

### V. How does Christ call us to live in this Way of Agape love?

**Please Join Us Next Sunday:** Pastor Travis preaching  
Love is, Love is not - Part 2 Love is Patient



1Corinthians 12:31-13:13

*12:31b And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

Love is Patient  
Love is Kind  
LOVE DOES **NOT** ENVY OR BOAST;  
IT IS **NOT** ARROGANT OR RUDE.  
IT DOES **NOT** INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY;  
IT IS **NOT** IRRITABLE OR RESENTFUL;  
IT DOES **NOT** REJOICE AT WRONGDOING,  
BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.  
LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS,  
HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS.

Love never ends

**12:31** From the Greek word "agape" which basically means "warm regard for" or "interest in another" or to "be for another" rather than being for one's self. New Testament writers amplify this basic definition by declaring that the model for "agape/love" is Jesus Christ's self-sacrifice (Rom. 5:6-8). This kind of love is a core characteristic of God's nature - He is love (1John 4:7-8). Paul here, is not primarily talking about romantic, emotional love between a man and a woman, his focus is on the relationships within the church community. He wants the Corinthian church to be characterized by attitudes, motives and actions of "agape/love".

**13:1 if I speak in tongues** Tongues is a gift of being able to speak or have speech in a foreign language in a language unknown to the speaker at times it might not follow any known speech.

**13:3 deliver up my body to be burned** Paul is probably thinking of Daniels three friends at the burning bush (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego). It was not just their willingness to be brave that mattered but it was the orientation of their heart as they did so.

## Part 1 Love is, Love is not

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

**13:4-8** Note in these passages God specifically lists out the ways of love. He opens with two positive virtues (patience and kindness); then proceeds to list eight negative virtues that Agape love rejects. Then six more words are used to describe the positive virtues of Agape Love. God knows the struggles of our heart and recognizes that we need to be confronted strongly with the ways in which the heart works and the heart is broken. The Lord casts a vision for love that is both exciting and convicting. Both overwhelming and desired.

**13:8 As for prophecies, they will pass away.** There are many different interpretations of this text about when Paul believed the gift of tongues and prophecy would pass away. A common view is known as the "cessationist view" that these miracle gifts were meant for the season of the writing of the New Testament. At the close of the writing the gifts went away. Others contend that the gifts do not go away until the return of Christ.

**13:12 mirror dimly.** The mirrors during this era were made from polished metals and when you looked at your reflection in the mirror it did not stand out as clearly as glass.

**13:13 Faith, Hope, and Love.** These topics are found often in the writings of Paul and all the New Testament writers. Paul is constantly showing the interplay of a faith that is given to us in Christ. A hope that is secured for us through the Holy Spirit. A Love that is expressed to us in the past work of Jesus on the cross and the current work of Jesus sitting at the right hand of the father interceding for us.

### The Verbs of Love is:

**patient:** restraining oneself when they are offended and injured by another; slow to anger and becoming angry; a willingness to handle unpleasant situations and people. (Matt. 18:26,29)

**kind:** a willingness to be compassionate and merciful towards others, to extend oneself to another with a tone of gentleness and care.

**not jealous:** to refrain from hostility towards another; to avoid envy and desiring the life of another; to avoid the rivalry and selfish ambition that consumes the heart and soul; to be suspect of another and their lack of faithfulness (Gen. 4:3-8; Gen. 37:11,28; Acts 5:17-18)

**not bragging:** avoid boastful talk and chatter; seek after individual recognition; hold others in contempt with arrogant talk and manner; elevating oneself beyond measure and purpose; to exhibit egotism and condescension (Matt. 6:2; Prov. 27:2)

**not arrogant:** fill yourself up with God's word before your own; do not exaggerate your worth and importance as to be overbearing towards others; avoid the inflated self who needs to dominate a room; avoid being puffed up. (Prov. 21:24; Ps. 31:18; Rom. 1:30)

**(does not) behave indecently:** unbecoming, improper, and inappropriate behavior in the various situations of life; offensive and destructive behaviors (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3-4; Romans 1:27)

**(does not) seek its own things:** avoid selfish behavior; does not limit God's will; avoids selfish ambition. (Phil. 2:3; James 3:13-17; Gal. 5:19-21)

**not irritated:** provoke a sense of impatience, anger, and displeasure in others; to cause or induce others towards frustration. (Prov 15:1; Col 1:11)

**(does not) keep a record of wrongs:** Avoids keeping an itemized list of wrong doing to hold over another. (Col. 3:13; Is. 55:7; Rom. 7:1; Luke 23:34)

**(does not) rejoice in evil:** do not embrace the work of sin, lies, and deceptions instead seek after the truth; evil is of the work of Satan while truth is the work of God; rejoice in the defeat of evil as truth always triumphs over evil (John 14:6; Prov. 6:16-19; John 8:44; John 8:32)

**covers all things:** love is supporting, caring and uplifting; this is the enduring love that rises above circumstances. (Rom. 5:3; Heb. 10:36; James 1:2-3)

**believes all things:** love is wise and discerning; a willingness to accept God's plans in all matters; open to a larger perspective on life and living beyond this world. (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:1; Mark 9:24; John 20:31)

**hopes all things:** patience; a willingness to wait upon the Lord; holding an optimistic perspective on God's plans; living in confidence upon the Lord; resisting fatalism (1 Peter 1:13; Col. 1:27; Eph. 1:18; Gal. 6:8)

**endures all things:** perseverance and tenacity in the matters of life; to withstand the onslaught of suffering with faith. (Rom. 2:7; Heb. 12:2)

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Resources quoted, used and adapted for these notes and the sermon:

The Message of 1 Corinthians by David Prior; 1 Corinthian by Simon Kistenmaker; Love is Before Love Does by Scott Sauls; You are What You Love by James KA Smith