

Welcome

Tornado and Coronavirus update

Pray for tornado victims. Giving channels on our website to help our members.

Pray for coronavirus victims and healthcare and hospital workers

Pray for all who continue to serve our community

If you can make masks, we've had someone offer some material

We are still in office, but that may change

Easter Week – Passion Week – Holy Week

Read the gospel accounts, beginning with the upper room experience

Talk with your children about the significance of this week.

Some may be ready to be saved.

HDBC Plans for this week.

Touchpoints probably on Monday and Thursday

Good Friday short messages at 9:00, Noon, 3:00

Easter Sermon will be just after sunrise – 7 a.m.

Display of Calvary Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

April 5, 2020 am

HDBC

Two weeks ago we began a series called **Calvary Love**. The purpose is to take a fresh look at the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13 against the backdrop of the death and resurrection of Jesus. When I speak of **Calvary Love** I am speaking of the highest form of love, the love that is described in 1 Corinthians 13 and is best displayed the death and resurrection of Jesus.

I've never examined this great text, the love chapter, specifically in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's been fascinating to do that. I wanted to examine what this chapter says about love and see if this kind of love is indeed displayed by Christ through his death and resurrection. I have not been disappointed.

Jesus said, the greatest example of love is seen when a person lays down his life for others. The Bible says, God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **What 1 Corinthians** declares with words about love, Jesus demonstrated with action at Calvary and beyond.

Before diving into our text, let me remind you that Calvary love is not generally described in poems or love songs. Nor can it be summed up in emotional descriptions of romance. I heard these definitions of love many years ago.

Two hearts beating beneath the stardust.

An itch than cannot be scratched.

A feeling you feel you are going to feel when you feel a feeling you've never felt before.

A website claimed to have the top 150 definitions of love. Wanna hear a few?

20. A mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship
36. Finding someone who completes your puzzle
51. When you can use the bathroom after the other and not care
52. Holding hands in the rain without knowing it's raining.
79. Two souls frozen in time
100. A diamond, 2 1/2 kids and a mortgage

114. A pair of twisted souls at peace with their place in the universe

123. A boy, a girl sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G

They may work in a song or a poem, but they do not even belong in the same conversation as Calvary Love.

Calvary love is more **bone and muscle** than fat or soft tissue. It is strong, powerful, tough. It can stand up under unbelievable pressure. It endures when hope seems to fade. It digs in and hangs on, refusing cut and run. That's the love we see in Christ on the cross.

READ THE TEXT - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

It includes 15 words or phrases. This makes it difficult. How do you preach a sermon with 15 points? It can be done, but not today.

There are times when the best course of action is to dig deep, examine the details, consider the nuances of each word and how they are used together. There are times to do that with this text, but today is not one of those times. Today I want to step back and look more at the forest than the trees. I want to examine the meaning of Calvary love, described here, in the shadow of the cross. **With that** in mind I want to do a survey of what Paul has stated about Calvary love. We can do that by using Paul's own words. He tells us . . .

What love is. What love is not. What love does. What love does not do

I've outlined this passage many different ways. Keep it simple

1. What love is

I want to know what love is . . . sang Foreigner in 1984. I don't know if they ever got the answer they were looking for, but I can tell them where to find it. Paul offers two very simple answers to the question in 1 Corinthians 13.

1) Patient

*To bravely, endure misfortune and trouble
To bear the offenses of others.*

Refusal to retaliate, even when it might seem right. **Calvary Love** has an

infinite capacity for endurance. It hangs in regardless of what is thrown at it. Love is **durable**. That's how God is!

Robert Ingersoll, an atheist teacher, would often stop in the middle of his lectures against God, and say "I'll give God five minutes to strike me dead for the things I've said." He would use the fact that it did not happen as proof that there was no God.

Theodore Parker said of Ingersoll's claim, "And did the gentleman think he could exhaust the patience of the eternal God in five minutes?"

2) Kind

Love looks for creative ways to act in kindness toward others. Love is by its very nature, benevolent. **Going the extra mile.**

We generally think of acts of kindness being the spontaneous things we do to help others. **Opening a door, picking up something dropped, helping to carry a load.** These are acts of kindness, for sure. But some acts of kindness should be planned and executed. **These acts of kindness** often require effort, energy and planning. They not only make a difference in the moment, but often create memories for a lifetime.

When five-year-old Michael showed up at the courthouse for an adoption hearing with his foster parents, he found a group of surprise visitors --his entire kindergarten class. Michael's teacher got the idea when she encountered Michael's foster mom dropping him off at school. The two of them devised a plan, and McKee organized the field trip, bus and all.

In the year or so since Michael has been with the couple, his father said he's been amazed at how often other children have welcomed Michael into their homes and social circles. The highlight of the day was during a portion of the hearing where the judge, who'd never hosted an entire kindergarten class before, asked all the students to explain why they were there in support. They all gave touching answers like, "I love Michael" and "Michael is my best friend."

Jesus both patient and kind as He died on the cross. Patient in suffering the abuse at the hands of godless people and kind in his actions toward lost humanity, desperately needing the kindness of a Savior.

2. What love is not

Three things are specifically mentioned.

1) Jealous

To burn with zeal. To be heated, to boil with envy, hatred and anger

Shakespeare calls this “the green sickness.”

This is a tough battle for most Christians because there will always be someone with something better. Or someone who has more. But, Calvary love has the ability to be content with whatever it has. When you are loving, you are content. **Love suppresses jealousy.**

2) Arrogant

To inflate, to puff up, make proud

Jesus heard the jeering crowd, mocking him for claiming to be the messiah. He listened and endured. He could have spoken of His greatness and His glory that was veiled for their good, but he did not. .

3) Provoked

To irritate, rouse to anger

Love gives you the ability to keep the temperature down. Love enables you to keep from over-reacting. When you are operating in love you are not touchy and sensitive. He heard the jeering crowds mocking, laughing and making fun. He saw their arrogance and pride. He could have become provoked but he did not.

A look at Calvary confirms that Jesus was not jealous, arrogant or provoked while suffering and dying on the cross. It was 1 Corinthians love on display.

3. What love does

1) Rejoices in the truth

That which is true. Love takes joy when truth prevails.

2) Bears all things

To cover (as with silence). To protect from that which threatens

Love is like the shield soaked in water. When the flaming arrow comes toward another, love stops it and extinguishes it.

This means there is a protective and supportive element to love.

When you love someone you protect and support them.

3) Believes all things

To place confidence in

Not talking about being gullible, but about believing in others and letting them know it. Love is not cynical or naturally suspicious. General disposition to believe to be positive and assume the best.

4) Hopes all things

To hope with full confidence

Confident assurance. Real love refuses to be despairing and depressing. Love maintains a positive spirit and attitude.

5) Endures all things

To remain, tarry. To persevere, to bear bravely and calmly

To stand courageously under pressure. When you love someone, you stick with them no matter how much it hurts. Willing to endure the greatest pain, for that other person.

Wow! The cross is the clearest display of this kind of love imaginable. Through His death He **covers us** with His righteousness. While hanging on the cross He had complete confidence that His death would effectively secure salvation for all who would trust Him. On the cross He bravely and courageously endured the pressure of the sins of the world.

4. What love does not do

1) Brag

To boast of one's self

Boasting is the other side of the coin of arrogance. Arrogance is the inward thought and attitude. Boasting is the outward action.

Calvary love leads a person to have no desire to boast and build himself up. The person who brags is not operating in love. **C. S. Lewis called “bragging” the “utmost evil.” It is the epitome of pride.**

2) **Act Unbecomingly**

Love does not act in an inappropriate manner. When you are operating in love you are conscious of what is right and you don't push the limits. You stay within the boundaries of decency and rightness.

This phrase also implies that love is tactful. When you are loving you know that there are right ways and wrong ways to do things. **Love is never disgraceful.**

3) **Seek its own**

Calvary Love leads you to think of others rather than self. Unselfish.

4) **Keep a record of wrongs**

Love has a bad memory. When you love, you refuse to keep records of the wrongs that were done to you. The only reason to keep those records is if you want to get revenge, etc.

5) **Rejoice in unrighteousness**

Injustice, a deed violating that which is right and just.

No joy in injustice or unrighteousness. Others may rejoice in the wrongs done to others. Love refrains from doing so. Love has a clear perspective on what is right and what is wrong.

Jesus certainly did not seek His own, or act in an unbecoming way while on the cross. He did not keep a record of wrong, but died to forgive others!

Four Summary Statements About Calvary Love

1. Love is a decision, not an emotion.

You can tell from this passage that real love has nothing to do with feelings. It is not an emotional thing. It requires a decision. Jesus made the decision to go to the cross for you and me.

2. Love is active, not passive.

Love doesn't stay in the heart and the head. It is seen in actions. These are action words in this passage. 5 statements about what love is or is not. 10 statements about what love does or does not do.

John 3:16 is the declaration of God's love for the world. The actions of Christ at Calvary are the display of God's love for the world.

3. Love is unselfish, not selfish

Love thinks not of self, but of others.

The death of Christ was for the good of others. It was the ultimate action of unselfishness. Giving His life that others may live.

4. Love is committed, not fickle

Love is not a magic wand to bring instant gratification. Love digs in. It refuses to quit. Love stands the test of time, no matter what.

That is so different from the kind of love we are used to.

Paul's girl is rich and haughty,	My girl is poor as clay.
Paul's girl is young and pretty,	My girl looks like a bale of hay.
Paul's girl is smart and clever,	My girl is dumb but good.
Now would I trade my girl for Paul's?	You bet your life I would!

That's not Calvary Love! Real love stays!

That's what Jesus did at Calvary! He stayed. He endured. He finished.

The Greatest **Description** of love ever written is in 1 Corinthians 13

The Greatest **Display** of love ever witnessed was at Calvary.

The Greatest **Mission** of love ever initiated succeeded at Calvary.

Speaker Brennan Manning has an interesting story about how he got the name "Brennan." While growing up, his best friend was Ray. The two of them did everything together: bought a car together as teenagers, double-dated together, went to school together and so forth. They even enlisted in the Army together, went to boot camp together and fought on the frontlines together.

One night while sitting in a foxhole, Brennan was reminiscing about the old days in Brooklyn while Ray listened and ate a chocolate bar. Suddenly a live grenade came into the foxhole. Ray looked at Brennan, smiled, dropped his chocolate bar and threw himself on the live grenade. It exploded, killing Ray, but Brennan's life was spared.

When Brennan became a priest he was instructed to take on the name of a saint. He thought of his friend, Ray Brennan. So he took on the name "Brennan."

Years later he went to visit Ray's mother in Brooklyn. They sat up late one night having tea when Brennan asked her, "Do you think Ray loved me?" Mrs. Brennan got up off the couch, shook her finger in front of Brennan's face and shouted, "What more could he have done for you?"

Brennan said that at that moment he experienced an epiphany. He imagined himself standing before the cross of Jesus wondering, *Does God really love me?* And Jesus' mother Mary pointing to her son, saying, "What more could he have done for you?"

Jesus left heaven to join humanity with a resolute determination to go the distance, to finish the mission, to endure the cross . . . because he loves us!

What would I like for you to do?

1. Receive His love, accept his offer and be saved!
2. Realize just how much you are loved. Stop doubting it!
3. Allow His love for you to become your love for others!