

October 6, 2019
LOVE UNLEASHED - Part 7
“Love Lasts”

In the area of relationships there is a lifetime warranty - God's love!

Jesus: “³⁷...“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”” (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV)

Jesus: ““A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you *must* love one another.”” (John 13:34 NIV - *emphasis added*) (*Note this emphasis added*)

Love (agape, Greek) - the kind of love God has for us - it accepts us for who we are and sacrificially works for our good.

Love is a choice, a decision, and therefore, it's a verb, it's something we *do!*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (ESV): “⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends....”

This kind of love is impossible to do consistently on our own, which is why we need God's help - we need His Spirit living in us, empowering us to live this way.

1 Corinthians 13:7-8 (ESV): “⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends....”

1 Corinthians 13:8 (NIV): “Love never fails....”

In vs. 7 there are four verbs that tell us what love does, and all four verbs are in the present tense, indicating these attitudes and actions are meant to be how we live our lives continually.

- **“Love bears all things”**

Love stands up for and covers things that would be hurtful in order to protect.

- **“[Love] believes all things”**

Love sees the best in others and gives them the benefit of the doubt.

- **“[Love] hopes all things”**

Love trusts God to continue working in every situation and bring some level of good out of any circumstance.

Romans 8:28 (NLT): “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

- “[Love] endures all things”

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NLT): “¹⁴...Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.”

Love endures setbacks and doesn't give up, and it doesn't give up on people or the world we live in.

These four verbs in vs. 7, in effect, point to the first part of vs. 8, which tells us “love never ends,” “love never fails” - *love lasts!*

Love never fails to be without effect, and it can never end, because it is bound up in the eternal love of God Himself.

We can't change anyone, but the love of God working in and through us can impact another.

God's love is not only the way we were created to live, it's also the only way to ultimately change this world for the best.

God's love never breaks, never fails, never ends - God's love lasts!

Next Week: Love Seeks

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