

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

3-28-12

What's Love got to do w/it?

I. Announce:

- A. Slide#1 Pray for Peru Team: Henry & Geri (5).
- B. Slide#2-7 Israel Trip update:

II. Slide#8 Intro:

- A. Slide#9 Chapter 13 is like waking up & realizing *spring is here!*
 - 1. The cold of winter is gone, & the flowers of spring are popping up everywhere! (our Israel trip)
- B. Let's slow down & smell this chapters fragrance!
- C. Lets not focus so much on getting **informed** but on being **transformed!**
- D. As Alan Redpath said, I trust you will get a **spiritual suntan** as you look into the face of our Lord Jesus Christ & **absorb the glow of His love!**
- E. Outline: *Love's Preeminence; Love's Ingredients. (Next week) Love Lasts!*
 - 1. The Greek word *agapao*/love seems to have been virtually a Christian invention. A new word for a new thing!

F. Slide#10 LOVE'S PREEMINENCE! (1-3)

- 1. The believers in Corinth had **spiritual gifts** but not **spiritual graces!**
 - a) Love is like a pair of reading glasses. One, lens represents **Love**; The other represents any **truth, or service, gift, or obedience.**
 - (1) When you pop out the lens of **love**, it all starts to blur.
 - (2) You can squint for a time looking out of the one lens, **but** it gets tiring after a time. – Love should be *yoked* w/everything!
- 2. (1) Your **speech** is not determined by the extent of your vocabulary **but by** the depth of your heart...by how much you love.
 - a) When love comes to a man's life he doesn't need words, for love is universal in every language.
- 3. (2) Judas Iscariot acquired all the **knowledge** he could, as he sat at his Masters feet for 3 years, **but** he didn't have **love...** & betrayed the Lord.
 - a) Some have the faith to move mountains, **but** they end up moving them right into the path of someone else!
- 4. (3) **Give away** your goods, or offer your body to be burned (or fixed to a cross like we see in P.I.).
 - a) Some attempt to make atonement for their sins by almsgiving. **This isn't out of love but out of hope for reward!**

- b) The heathen cuts himself to death to make peace w/God. This isn't out of **love** but out of **fear!**
 - c) Some court persecution, boasting **"I'd die for Christ!"** thinking only of how we'd look to the rest of our Christian community...a type of hero...**yet** it is simply a product of **pride** & not of **devotion!**
5. **Results of love-less-ness?** – I have become nothing(1); I am nothing(2); I profits me nothing(3)
- a) So it's saying, "You are not something or somebody, but you are absolutely nobody, worthless for time & for eternity!"
 - b) Our greatest activities & accomplishments, exercised **without love**, are empty & temporal.
 - c) Love it or loose it!
6. **Slide#11** Rev.2:2-4 I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil...and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have **left your first love**.

III. **Slide#12 LOVE'S INGREDIENTS! (4-7)**

- A. "This word *agapao* has little to do with mere emotion; it indicates love which deliberately, by an act of **will**, **chooses** its object, & through thick or thin, regardless of the attractiveness of the object concerned, goes on **loving** continually, eternally."¹
- B. Every description of love in this chapter is applicable to **Jesus**.
 - 1. **"Jesus suffers long & is kind...Jesus never fails!"**
- C. **When we become NT Christians agape is born in us**. If this study is to mean anything we should be able to say by the end...**"I suffer long & am kind, I do not envy..."**
- D. **Lets look at the Ingredients of love!**
- E. **Slide#13 (4) Love suffers long!** (patient)
- F. This is the **1st** quality love displays.
- G. The Greek word used always describes **patience w/people & not patience w/circumstances**.
 - 1. **"It takes a long time before fuming & breaking into flames."**²
 - 2. He is **slow** to anger. **It doesn't strike back**.
 - 3. When you've been wronged, love is patient & silent.

¹ Alan Redpath, pg.156.

² Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament

H. *Chrysostom* said that it is the word used of the man who is wronged & who has it easily in his power to avenge himself & who yet will not do it. (like David in En Gedi)

1. Such patience is not the sign of *weakness* but the sign of **strength**.

I. Story – No one treated **Abraham Lincoln** w/more contempt then did **Stanton**. Stanton called him “a low cunning clown”, he nicknamed him “the original gorilla”. Lincoln never responded. - When it came time to pick his **war minister** he picked Stanton because he was the **best for the job & he treated him w/ever courtesy**. Years later when the assassin’s bullet murdered Lincoln in the theatre, in the little room the body was taken to, there stood Stanton. Looking down on Lincoln’s silent face, he said through his tears, “**There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen.**” *The Patience of love had conquered in the end!*

J. **Slide#14 Love is kind!**

K. If we just endured wrong this could be just a triumph of *obstinacy*.

1. The love of God is not only *patient* but is **kind!**

2. Origen defined this as, “*Love is sweet to all*”.

L. Jesus showed the greatest **kindness** to Judas Iscariot who betrayed Him.

M. **So many of us would have sided with the rulers & not with Jesus if we had had to deal w/the woman taken in adultery!** :(

N. **Do you show kindness to the children of God?**

1. Jn.13:35 **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**

O. **Slide#15 Love does not envy!**

P. To boil with envy, to be jealous.

Q. Where there is no love there will inevitably be envy!

1. Envy was the seed of the 1st murder in human history, & it has been a seed of murder ever since!

2. **Envy is like a 2 sided coin** – On **one side** envy is coveting the possessions of others. **The other side** is even worse. It resents the very fact that others have what they don’t have (it doesn’t necessarily want them for themselves, it just wishes others had not got them).

R. **Are you eaten up w/envy, jealous of other’s gifts, opportunities, abilities, possessions, position in life?**

S. **Slide#16 Love does not parade itself!**

T. Love doesn't brag or boast! – *“Love makes no parade!”*³

1. When I was 5 years old, Mr. Prenevost used to have all the kids on the **Cerecita block in Whittier** go home & get pots & pans, & we'd parade up & down the street.
 - a) How often I've done that with my “love”.

2. When a man begins to boast, he is advertising his **emptiness** & his **ignorance**.

U. **The Lord Jesus never “showed off”!**

V. “True love will always be far more impressed w/its own **unworthiness** than its own **merit!**”⁴

W. *“The real lover cannot ever get over the wonder that he is loved!”*

1. **I can see this 2 ways:** One with the Lord; the other w/Kelly!
2. **The Lord** – Why does the Lord love me...I know me.
3. **Kelly** – My 1st date with her...I couldn't believe she'd go out with me (popular cheer leader type; me the wanna be jock/surfer/party'r type)
4. **When I get frustrated w/either of these relationships, that truth is a great reminder! Then my love is kept humble!**

X. **How about you? Are you boastful, conceited, proud?**

Y. **Slide#17 Love is not puffed up!**

Z. *“To puff oneself out like **a pair of bellows**”.* (RWP)

1. It is never arrogant, but always humble.
2. It is not inflated with its own importance!

AA. **Slide#18 William Carey** once a cobbler, became 1 of the greatest missionaries & linguistics the world has ever seen. (He translated at least parts of the bible in approx. 34 Indian languages) **When he came to India he was treated w/dislike & contempt. At a dinner party a snob trying to intimidate him, said, “I suppose you once worked as a shoe-maker.” - “No your lordship”, answered Carey, “not a shoe maker, only a cobbler.” He did not even claim to “make shoes”, just “mend them”!**

BB. **Slide#19 (5) Love does not behave rudely!**

CC. Love is not ill-mannered, but always courteous.

DD. Love is tactful & does nothing that would **raise a blush**.

1. There should be a graciousness in Christian love which never forgets that **courtesy & tact & politeness** are attractive things!

EE. **Who do you have problems being rude to? Your wife/husband? Your kids? Your employees? A teacher?**

³ Moffatt

⁴ William Barclay

FF. **Slide#20 Love does not seek its own!**

GG. Love does not insist upon its **rights**; **but** finds its joy in **servicing others**.

HH. **Do you seek your own advancements & interests, ... at the expense of others?**

II. Oh if men would think less of their **rights** & more of their **duties**!

JJ. **Slide#21 Love is not provoked!**

KK. Love **never** flies into a temper. Love is **not** irritable or touchy.

LL. Christian love **never** becomes *exasperated* w/people!

1. Often it is excused as something that people cannot help, but it demonstrates a lack of love, ... *no if, &'s, or buts!*

MM. When we loose our **tempers** we loose **everything!** - **Master your temper & you can master about anything!**

1. Jesus **never** was **vindictive** **nor** did He **retaliate**.

NN. **Are you temperamental, thin-skinned, easily offended, quick to be resentful?**

OO. **Slide#22 Love thinks no evil!**

PP. Love always keeps a list of the kind things done to it, **but never** a record of the wrongs it has suffered.

QQ. It does not cherish in its memory a list of injustices.

1. **Love has an amazing power to forget!!!**
2. Jesus came to blot out our sin & *remember our sin no more... forever!*

RR. It is said of **President Lincoln**, that he never forgot a kindness, **but** he had no room in his mind for the memory of a wrong... **How about you?**

1. **One of the great arts in life is to learn what to forget!**
2. In Polynesia the natives spend much time **fighting & feasting**. They have a custom to keep some reminders of their hatred. They suspend articles for the roofs of their huts to keep alive the memory of their wrongs, until it is impossible to forget them.
 - a) **If I came over to your house what would I see hanging from your roof?**
 - b) **Christian love learns how to forget!**

SS. **Slide#23** In USA TODAY, April 14, '88 - "Have you ever noticed that sometimes we get angry and remain bitter with people and actually forget why we're so upset? Take, for example, the notorious **Hatfield-McCoy** feud. It hit newspaper front pages in the 1880's, when the Hatfield clan feuded with the McCoy clan from across the border in Kentucky. Historians disagree on the cause of the feud -- which captured the imagination of the nation during a 10-year run. Some cite Civil War tensions: McCoy's sympathized with the Union, Hatfields with the Confederacy. Others say it began when the McCoy's blamed the Hatfields for stealing hogs. As many as 100 men, women and children died. In May 1976, Jim McCoy and Willis Hatfield --

the last two survivors of the original families -- shook hands at a public ceremony dedicating a monument to six of the victims. McCoy died Feb. 11, 1984, at age 99. He bore no grudges & had his burial handled by the *Hatfield Funeral Home* in Toler, KY!"

TT. **Slide#24 (6) Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth!**

1. It seems *easier* to **weep** with those who weep, **than** to **rejoice** with those who rejoice!
2. In Jesus interview with the woman taken in adultery, He did not condone her sin, **but** He protected & forgave her!

UU. **Slide#25 (7) Love bears all things!**

1. To bear up as to support as a roof.
 - a) Love gets under the load of life & bears it to the limit.
2. Love suffers wrong w/o retaliation.
3. Love can bear any insult, any injury, & any disappointment.
 - a) **"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."**

VV. **Slide#26 Love believes all things!**

1. Love takes God at His word!
2. Love always believes the best about other people.
 - a) **Not** that love is easily deceived. **Nor** love is blind.
 - b) It means love is **not** basically suspicious.
 - c) *It takes the kindest view of others in every circumstance, as long as it possibly can!*

WW. **Slide#27 Love hopes all things!**

1. Love doesn't despair of anybody! – Love never ceases to hope!
2. How sad, the dad that tells his son or daughter, *"you're hopeless, you'll never amount to anything."* (that shatters their hope!)

XX. **Slide#28 Love endures all things!**

1. Love never gives in! - Such love took Jesus to Calvary!
2. The ability to love can only come from love's **source**.
 - a) Recall afresh the great love God has shown us through the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Don't try to produce these qualities by self-improvement, it's submission to the H.S.
 - a) Rm5:5 **the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the H.S. who was given to us**
 - b) **Yield yourself to Him!**

YY. **Slide#29,30** Sneak Peek into next week - **Love never fails!**

1. Love will stand - Love will never let you down! - Love survives everything! - It is invincible love! – It is love that will never go extinct!