

Where's the Love at...?

Part 1

Ephesians 5:1-2

“Define Agape or Perfect Love”

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

October 4, 2009

- I. Love is Patient (v4a) “Love suffereth long” This word is used again and again in the New Testament to describe patience with people. It isn't a word that concerns itself with circumstances or events, it concerns itself with people. It is the ability to be wronged and wronged again, and has the power to retaliate, but never even think of it. It is the spirit which never retaliates. It describes the person who never ever gets angry.
 - a. Paul's example of patience (2Corinthians 6:1-13)
 - b. Plea for Patience (Galatians 5:22-26)
 - c. Practice of Patience (Ephesians 5:22)
- II. Love is Kind (v4b) “Love is Kind” Kindness is the flip side of patience. Long-suffering endures the injuries of others, and kindness pays them back with good deeds. Long-suffering says, “I'll take anything from my enemies,” but kindness says, “I'll give anything to my enemies to meet their need.” Now, that's the essence of kindness. It's just the other side of long-suffering.
 - a. An action based on righteousness not emotion or feeling (Matthew 5:44)
 - b. Attitude of taking the upper road even when those you are dealing with take the lower one

c. Active always and not something in reserve (Ephesians 4:32)

III. Love is not Jealous (v4c) “envieth not” The root word for envy, in the Greek, means “to boil.” It refers to an inner boiling, seething or steaming over something somebody else has. Another word for envy is jealousy. Solomon called it “rotteness of the bones” (Proverbs 14:30); I have often heard it referred to as the green monster.

- a. Envy and Jealousy are Destroyers of the faith and fellowship (Proverbs 27:4)
- b. Envy and Jealousy are Dead sin of lack of knowledge (1Timothy 6:4)
- c. Envy and Jealousy are Depraved nature that we have failed to sacrifice (James 3:14, 16:4,5)

IV. Love is not Boastful (v4d) “Vauneth not itself” Boasting is the verbalizing of pride, the actual speech of pride, the actual action of pride. Boastfulness is just the verbalizing, the windbag and the hot air that comes out of the mouth of a proud, conceited person, incidentally, this word is used only in this verse in the entire New Testament. Love is not a windbag. Love does not speak an arrogant, baseless chatter that is designed to make me look better than you. Bragging is an effort to make other people feel inferior because of what you are or what you have. In other words, it is the flip side of envy. Notice, in verse 4, that he says, “Love doesn’t envy,” and then turns it around and says, “Love doesn’t brag.” Envy is wanting something that other people have, and bragging is making people want what you have.

- a. Self-Righteous fools (unbeliever) boast in themselves and riches and forsake the things of Christ (Psalm 49:5-13)
- b. Saved heart boast only in the things of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:12-18)
- c. Sadness of those who take God’s glory for themselves (2 Corinthians 10:12, Matthew 6:1)
- d. Self Control of over confident (James 13:17) “It ain’t bragging if you can do it”

e. Self Control over the tongue (James 3:1-18)

V. Love is not Conceited (v4e) "...love...is not puffed up" "Look to myself, with distinguished esteem and unalterable satisfaction." Conceit goes deeper than the mouth. There is bragging – the hot air, the shooting off of one's mouth – and then there is deep-down conceit. Now those statements may seem like synonyms or parallels, but they aren't. Boasting is the verbiage of the wickedness of pride and conceitedness that lies in darkness in the heart.

a. Bank to which Boasting draws (Romans 12:3)

b. Believes more of oneself than there is substance in performance (3 John 9:12)

c. Belittling and critical spirit when seen as less in the eyes of others and lustful desires to hear their name as though they have no room for improvement (1 Corinthians 4:17-21)