

August 7, 2022

## Attitudes, Part 11

by Warren Berkley

### What Love Is

(1 Cor.13:4-7)

Read 1 Cor. 13

It may seem like it happened this way. Paul was writing this letter to the Christians in Corinth. At the end of chapter twelve he paused and said to himself: "Hmmm. I guess next I'll write something about love." (Writing instrument re-directed to parchment).

No. Paul had been writing to the church about their immature and disordered use of spiritual gifts they were privileged to have. Those gifts became, in their childish hands, instruments of competitive envy and quarreling. What was needed was respect for God, submission to His purposes accompanied by the love Paul describes in chapter thirteen. This chapter is very much a part of the context of this part of Paul's remedial letter to the Corinthians.

In verses 4-7, love is described in terms of the various products or actions. "Love is patient and 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 working-doing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believe all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Many years ago I witnessed a treasured used of this passage. I married couple

were at odds and the threat of divorce was in the air. Several counselors had tried without good result to bring about reconciliation. Finally a preacher was brought in. He spent ten minutes with the couple, and they came out of the room ready to re-commit to their marriage and reconciliation was achieved by the grace of God.

What did the preacher do? He had them read 1 Cor. 13:4-7, out loud to each other. But with a slight paraphrase. He had them read the passage but with their name instead of the word "love."

Can you imagine the impact. "Bob is patient and kind." "Mary does not envy or boast."

In tears they read to each other from God's word with very direct, personal application. Both realized in those moments what was missing. Both had tender hearts. Both repented of their selfish attitudes. Both lived a good, long life married to each other, raising children and serving God.

It is so simple. Love is what is missing in so many relationships. I challenged you. Get you Bible. Go stand in front of a mirror. Read this passage and insert your name. How does that sound??

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Gospel Meeting** - Grissom Road in San Antonio, August 7-12

**Our fall meeting** with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

## The Way of Love

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 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. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

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

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 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. 12 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.

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:1–13)

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

**Dinah Williams** is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother)** is under treatment for cancer.

**Debbie McMurray** is recovering from her radiation treatment.

**Andrea Ayers** is recovering from surgery on her jaw.

**Randall Vanaman** is recovering from surgery on his foot.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

### **Evangelist**

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