

The First Epistle of John

(Week 12 – 1John 2:7-8)

I. Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? (Part 3)

A. Text#1: 1John 2:7-11 (ESV): *“Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. (8) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. (9) Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. (10) Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. (11) But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”*

B. Text#2: John 13:34 (ESV): *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”*

II. Review

A. God’s love shines in its fullness when we obey Him (1John 2:5) and when we love each other (1John 4:12)

1. 1John 4:12 (ESV), *“if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”*

B. **(FRAME)** What is love?

1. First and foremost: **GOD IS LOVE!** (1John 4:8)

a. Love became flesh: Jesus Christ!

b. We look to Jesus as our prototype as to what love is and how to love!

2. 1Cor. 13:4-8a (ESV): **PART 1**

a. Love is patience (long suffering)

i. He shows His patience by not destroying this world long ago!

ii. He shows His patience with us by forgiving us over and over again!

iii. Just as He is patient with us, so we must be patient with each other!

b. Love is kind (synonyms: caring; mercy; sympathy; compassion; friendliness)

i. He showed His kindness by sending His Son to redeem us

ii. He shows His kindness by providing sun and rain for both the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45b; Luke 6:35)

iii. Just as He is kind to us, so we must be kind to each other

iv. **(FRAME)** It is good to note that correction is a form of kindness (Psalm 141:5)

III. What is love? PART 2 (based on 1Cor. 13:4-8)

A. When you love someone, you are genuinely concerned about them

B. Love also desires what is spiritually beneficial for others

1. For this reason...

a. Love does not envy (1Cor. 13:4)

i. **(FRAME) Question: How would you define ‘envy’?**

- Personalizing the definition:

➤ *“My sinful response due to the success of another.”*

ii. **Question: Why is envy incompatible with love?**

- Because love seeks the benefit of another, even if it takes a personal sacrifice to accomplish it.

- Love causes others to prosper at one’s own expense!

➤ Think of Jesus: His pain meant our gain!

iii. **Question: But isn’t God jealous? (Exodus 20:5). Why can’t disciples be jealous since God is a jealous God?**

- God is jealous over that which belongs to Him.

- We are jealous over that which belongs to someone else.

iv. **Question: Can a Christian have godly jealousy?**

- Yes! Paul did!

➤ *“For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (3) But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2Cor. 11:2-3 ESV)*

a. Paul had a deep love for God’s people here and he didn’t want what belonged to God to become Satan’s prey!

➤ In the same way, when we have a divine jealousy for our brother, it will cause us to seek that which will spiritually benefit him!

➤ But the envy spoken of in 1Cor. 13:4 wants to prosper at another brother’s expense!

v. **Question: How can envy show itself within the Church?**

- By being jealous when another disciple is given a position of leadership.

- By being jealous when our responsibilities are given to someone else due to our irresponsibility.

➤ Remember King Saul? -- 1Samuel 18:1-11

a. He was irresponsible with the commands of God

b. God replaced him with David

c. This caused Saul to be jealous of David

- By being jealous of the success of someone else’s ministry.

- All of these examples show a lack of love!

b. Love does not boast (1Cor. 13:4)

i. Question: What does it mean to 'boast'?

- To boast is to brag!
- Boasting is the flip side of the same coin
 - Envy is my sinful response due to the success of another...
 - Boasting is my sinful response to my own success, accompanied by speech!
- Boasting involves vocalization: The "I'm-more-superior-than-you" attitude.
- Boasting is letting other people know about my success in a way that tempts others to be jealous of that success.
- Boasting takes credit for one's success.
 - Whatever good there is, it is from God!
 - All good gifts are from Him and are given by Him!
 - a. *"For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" (1Corinthians 4:7 ESV)*

c. Love is not arrogant (1Cor. 13:4)

i. Question: How do you define 'arrogance'?

- Boasting and arrogance are similar, with this one exception: an arrogant person exudes a prideful character as opposed to a bragger, who exudes his prideful character with his words.
- Like boasting, arrogance is my sinful response to my own success, but without words!

IV. Conclusion:

A. None of these traits show concern for others; they are selfish in nature!

B. Envy, boasting and arrogance are incompatible with love!