

## 1Corinthians – Week 47

### I. Review

#### A. 1Cor. 13:1-3

- i. Paul encourages the Corinthians to practice something that they all could do: LOVE!
- ii. He uses hyperboles to show the preeminence of love!
  1. Hyperboles are exaggerations to create emphasis or effect.
    - a. Ex. “*Enough food to feed a whole army*” is a common hyperbole.
  2. Verse 1: If a man were able to speak languages of men, and even of angels, without love, he would be a clanging noise to the Lord!
  3. Verse 2: If a man knew all there is to know and understood all mysteries, without love, he is nothing to the Lord!
  4. Verse 3: If a man gave all he had (to feed the poor) and died a martyr’s death, without love, he would gain nothing from the Lord!

### II. Continuation: The Definition of Love

#### A. Paul next points out the qualities of love.

#### B. Before we get into those qualities, let us be reminded of the four types of love:

##### i. Eros:

1. This forms the root of our English word “erotic.”
2. It is a “getting” love.
3. It is usually associated with sexual love.
4. This form of love is emotionally driven.

##### ii. Stergo:

1. Although this love is not mentioned in the NT, it is a word found in ancient Greek literature denoting a natural “caring” love.
2. This is the love for our family members or a neighbor in need.
3. The antithesis of this love is seen in Romans 1:31 (astogos – without natural affection; heartless).
4. This form of love is emotionally driven.

##### iii. Philos:

1. This is a “sharing” love.
2. It is the affection we feel for those close to us.
3. It is the love between friends or among family.
4. This form of love is emotionally driven.

##### iv. Agape:

1. This is a “giving” love.
2. It sacrifices itself for the benefit of others.
3. It seeks to give rather than to get.
4. It keeps on loving even when the other person doesn't respond.
5. This form of love is Christ-driven.

##### v. The love under discussion in 1Corinthians 13 is agape-love.

#### C. The qualities of agape-love is most clearly seen in God and in Christ but also in the life of anyone in whose heart God's love reigns...

##### i. 1Cor. 13:4a (ESV), “*Love is patient and kind...*”

##### 1. Love’s response: Patience

- a. Patience is long suffering; it is the ability to endure hardship and inconvenience without complaint
- b. How does God show His patience?
  - i. By waiting for souls to repent (cf. Rom. 2:4; 2Peter 3:9).
  - ii. By not destroying this world sooner (cf. 2Peter 3:9-15).
  - iii. By forgiving us 70 times 7 (cf. Matt. 18:22).

- c. How would you describe a patient person?
    - i. A person whose emotions, behavior and desires are under control.
    - ii. A person who acts in the right time and in the right place.
    - iii. A person who is not easily irritated.
    - iv. A person whose desire is to win the heart of his opponent.
  - d. Agape-love is patient with annoying people, with irritating people, with people who try to hurt you, with people who drag your name through the mud, and with people who gossip about you.
  - e. Agape-love is even patient in trying circumstances: long lines, traffic jams, delayed dinner, etc., because it suffers long!
2. Love's action: Kindness
- a. How does God show His kindness?
    - i. By providing sun and rain, even to the unthankful (Matt. 5:45; Luke 6:35)
    - ii. By sending His Son, Jesus Christ to this world (John 3:16).
  - b. A good example of kindness is the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).
    - i. He could have rushed to his next appointment in Jericho.
    - ii. He could have said he had neither the time nor the money.
    - iii. Yet, he took the time and the trouble to help the wounded man. He was kind.
  - c. Kindness can be stifled by allowing oneself to be too caught up in a job, a task, a hobby, a sport or even a cause!
    - i. Lenin, a Russian revolutionist and communist from the early 1900s, depicts this tragedy:
      - 1. Lenin wrapped himself in his revolutionary work until he lost almost all capacity for tenderness and kindness.
      - 2. Those about him said he was a most miserable man.
      - 3. Although married, Lenin gave little love to his wife. One evening she rose exhausted from looking after her dying mother and asked Lenin, who was writing at a table, to awaken her if her mother needed her. Lenin agreed and his wife collapsed into bed.
      - 4. The next morning she awoke to find her mother dead and Lenin still at work. Distraught, she confronted Lenin, who replied, 'You told me to wake you if your mother needed you. She died. She didn't need you.'
    - ii. Contrasting Lenin with the Lord Jesus:
      - 1. Although busy and often tired and hungry, we always see Jesus taking time to be kind to children crowding around Him (Matt. 19).
      - 2. He speaks with a woman at the well and sparks a fire in her heart (John 4).
      - 3. He stoops down the ground to restore a fallen woman (John 8).
      - 4. It is heart-warming to see how much time Jesus spent just being tender and kind to people.
    - iii. Kindness means availability, usefulness, care to anyone with a need.
    - iv. Kindness means selflessness instead of selfishness.
    - v. Kindness means we give ourselves to and for others.
  - d. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is the Lord Jesus. Is love also you?