

“This is Love, Part 1”
1 Corinthians 13:4

I. Love is patient.

- μακροθυμέω (makrothumeó)
- to bear up under provocation without complaint, be patient, forbearing.
- I suffer long, have patience, am forbearing, perseverance.
- properly, long-tempered (to defer anger), refusing to retaliate with anger, because of human reasoning.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but **is patient** toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Matthew 18:26

So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘**Have patience** with me and I will repay you everything.’

James 5:7-8

⁷ Therefore **be patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, **being patient** about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸ You too **be patient**; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, **be patient** with everyone...

(Matthew 18:21-22, 26 [21-35]; 23:14; Luke 6:78-28; Romans 12:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; James 5:7-8; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 14:8)

II. Love is kind.

- χρηστεύομαι (chrésteuomai)
- I am kind (full of service to others), gentle

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is **kind** to ungrateful and evil men.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

(Luke 6:35; Romans 2:4; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Peter 2:3)

III. Love is not jealous.

ζηλόω (zéloó)

1. be positively and intensely interest in something., strive, desire, exert oneself earnestly, be dedicated
2. to have intense negative feelings over another's achievements or success, be filled w. jealousy, envy

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

Revelation 3:19

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

Acts 17:5

But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

Acts 7:9

"The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him...

(Acts 7:9; 17:5; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 3:19)

IV. Love does not brag.

- περπερεύομαι (perpereuomai)
- to heap praise on oneself, behave as a περπερος (braggart, windbag).
- I boast, vaunt myself.

(Matthew 7:33-37)

V. Love is not arrogant.

- φυσιώω (phusioó)
- to cause to have an exaggerated self-conception, puff up, make proud
- I inflate, puff up; pass: I am puffed up, arrogant, proud.
- properly, inflate by blowing; (figuratively) swelled up, like an egotistical person spewing out arrogant ("puffed-up") thoughts.

Colossians 2:18

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, **inflated** without cause by his fleshly mind...

(Proverbs 16:18-19; Luke 14:11; Colossians 2:18)

Scripture References and Notes

I. The Priority of Godly Love (vs. 1-3).

II. The Character of Godly Love (vs. 4-7).

A. The **Character** of Agape Love in its qualities (vs. 4-5).

B. The **Character** of Agape Love in truth (v. 6).

C. The **Character** of Agape Love in its personal manifestation (v. 7).

III. The Supremacy of Godly Love (vs. 8-13).

“The purpose of Paul’s prism is not to give a technical analysis of love, but to break it down into smaller parts so that we may more easily understand and apply its full, rich meaning. As with all of God’s Word, we cannot truly begin to understand love until we begin to apply it in our lives. Paul’s primary purpose here is not simply to instruct the Corinthians but to change their living habits. He wanted them carefully and honestly to measure their lives against those characteristics of love.”

– John MacArthur, *1 Corinthians*, 337-338.

“Love”

- ἀγάπη (agape)
- the quality of warm regard for and interest in another (BDAG).
- love, benevolence, good will, esteem; plur: love-feasts.
- properly, love which centers in moral preference. So too in secular ancient Greek, (agápē) focuses on preference; likewise the verb form (agapáō) in antiquity meant "to prefer" (TDNT, 7).
- In the NT, (agápē) typically refers to divine love (= what God prefers).

Matthew 23:14

[Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense you make **long** prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.]

Revelation 14:8

And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine **of the passion** of her immorality.”

Luke 6:27-28

²⁷“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

“The love of God, and of our neighbor for God’s sake, is patient towards all men: it suffers all the weakness, ignorance, errors, and infirmities of the children of God; and all the malice and wickedness of the children of this world; and all this, not merely for a time, but long, without end; for it is still a mind or disposition, to the end of which trials, difficulties, etc., can never reach. It also waits God’s time of accomplishing his gracious or providential purposes, without murmuring or repining; and bears its own infirmities, as well as those of others, with humble submission to the will of God.”

– Joseph Benson, 1749-1821, <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/rbc/1-corinthians-13.html>

Matthew 7:33-37

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. ³⁵ The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. ³⁶ But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Proverbs 16:18-19

¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. ¹⁹ It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Luke 14:11

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.