



Love is patient
love is kind.
It does not envy
it does not boast
it is not proud.
it does not dishonor others.
it is not self-seeking.
it is not easily angered
it keeps no
record of wrong

I CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

Lumin Notes

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINES
PACK IN LUNCHBOXES
HIDE FOR A STRANGER
STASH IN A BRIEFCASE
HAND TO A LOVED ONE
GIVE TO A FRIEND IN NEED
SHARE THE LOVE, SPREAD HIS TRUTH
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LOVE 
is
Patient

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Love is
KIND

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LOVE
Does
NOT
Boast

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LOVE
is not
PROUD



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love
is not
SELF
SEEKING

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love
is not
easily
angered

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love does
not
dishonor
others

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I am
praying
for you 

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Love
Does not
envy

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When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, his purpose was to correct their behaviors which did not reflect the beliefs and actions of the early church. He was seeing “erroneous” behaviors that needed to stop - and then, ultimately, change. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, the ever popular marriage verse, Paul eloquently reminds the church - past, present, and future - what love is and what love is NOT. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). When love is laid out this way, for my simple brain, the “not” is what resonates most heartily. And thankfully, this verse equally appeals to those young and not so young, those married and those NOT. Love can have deep (and sometimes complicated) feelings of fondness, compassion, care, sympathy, charity, warmth, and intimacy. The love that Paul talks about in these verses is agape love - love for everyone. This kind of love is bigger than kindness (though love is kind) and bigger than friendliness. Agape love is love without expectation - it is freely given, unbreakable (patient and “longsuffering” through the good and the bad), and sacrificial (not self-serving). Agape love is a powerful love which leads to actions and sacrifices on behalf of others. It sounds similar to God’s love, but coming from humans, it is hard to attain because of the ugliness called sin that lives within each of our hearts.

In Paul’s laundry list of what love is not, the common theme is love is NOT SIN. Envy and pride are so prevalent in our lives, but with it clouding our vision, we cannot properly love the way Paul implored the Corinthians to love nor the way God intended. Love does not dishonor others because, quite simply, it is kind. It is not self-seeking because if we are truly aiming to model our love after Christ’s, He paid the ultimate price and asks for nothing in return; remember the great gift of grace? Love is not easily angered or provoked. If you recognize key players in the Bible who acted out of anger or envy or pride or any other sin, you cannot ignore the fact that they had to face God with the heaviness of their sin. Abel murdered Cain out of anger and envy; Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery because of envy. Even Jesus’ death on the cross came as a result of envy (Matthew 27:18). None of these actions were done out of love. Finally, love keeps no record of wrongs. Does God? We have heard many times that God is the eternal amnesiac. He forgets our sins and wrong doings again and again and again. We should follow suit - out of love.

Our goal should be to love like Christ, with no expectations, no selfishness or neediness, and aim to live with no sin or ugliness in our hearts. Then the absence of envy, pride, selfishness, etc. will be replaced with a freeing (and freely given) natural, love. It will be a love full of kindness and genuineness that will make the recipient of this love smile and wonder Why? The why can be answered simply by agreeing that it was commanded and it is deserved as a child of God. We can love because we “rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” 1 John 4:16



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FORMOM

What things (sins) get in the way of you giving love?

What things (sins) get in the way of you receiving love?

FOR KIDS

To whom can you extend agape love this month?

What is one tangible way you can show love to a friend?

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Psalms 119:130 The unfolding of your words give light - it gives understanding to the simple. God's word providing light in our lives. His words iLUMINating truth in our hearts.

HIS WORDS | YOUR HEART