

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13:4

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX757 NOVEMBER 20, 2011

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE

DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

Part One

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Love, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth, Witness, God

Introduction to the Text: 1st Corinthians 13:4

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

:4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; **Love** does not envy; **Love** does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **:5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **:6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **:7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Here are 15 descriptions of the Nature, the Act and the Personification of God as lived out in the life of Jesus Christ.

“FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE”

This title is one that is most often used in the context of describing that one, very special person that you willingly decide to share the rest of your life with.

It was on June 25, 1967 that The Beatles Performed for the First Time ever
"All You Need Is Love" – by John Lennon

1 Peter 4:8

Have fervent love for one another. – *by Apostle Peter*

The Prerogative of God - is Love. Love is His Very Nature.

“FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE”

If it's based upon a person - - there is no doubt that that person will be under a heavy burden to perform *and* fulfill your greatest needs and desires.

Within these few verses before us is the only place in all of the Bible where there is a description of what Love is.

(it's not a definition – definitions are on the chopping block these days)

Here in our English language, the descriptions are all adjectives. But in the Greek language, there are no adjectives found here - only verbs describing God's Love: active - as deeds, action, activity, it's what we do with our lives.

What's amazing to me is that, according to God

You can possess all the gifts of the holy spirit and even perform miracles but all of that equals nothing in the end without love.

On the flipside, you can be void of all the gifts of the Spirit and have no miracles under your belt, but if you're living out the love of God, in the end that will mean everything to God.

“Anything *minus* Love equals Nothing”

MY PERSONAL NOTE ON ALL THIS

I am reminded that I can **studying about Jesus** but it's not until **I see Jesus** will I then see Him as I should - walking out of the pages of my Bible and into my heart. Looking at Jesus is to see the Love of God. The result of catching sight of Christ is revealing. I discover a great equality within me. To what degree I hate my sin - that same degree is mirrored by my love for Him. Little love for Jesus, little concern about my sin. Great love for Jesus, Great concern about my sin. God is Love.

Ephesians 3:19

to **know** the love of Christ which passes **knowledge**;
that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Where do you start with such a statement? - How do you begin to take that in?

What God Has To Say About His Bible:

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture *is* given by **inspiration of God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (*why*) :17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We Just May Be Entering Into The Deepest Water Yet
< we can too easily skip over this and miss eternity >

“FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE”

DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

1.) Is finding Him who is altogether - Humble

v.4

Philippians 2:6-8

Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, :7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. :8 And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled** Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

Humbled grk *tapeino/w tapeinoo, tap-i-no'-o*; to be willing to step down, To take on a position that is less than what you are. To be self-abased.

HE IS ALTOGETHER HUMBLE

1a.) By His humility He puts up with me

:4 Love suffers long

This Love, having been wronged, is patient and silent under pressure.

This love refuses to act in anger - though justified to do so.

This Speaks of a difficult and protracted campaign against you personally and you put up with it mercifully.

Matthew 5:11-12

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. :12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Peter 5:10

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

***What I Must Put Jesus Through When I Am Not
Long-Suffering Toward Others***

HE IS ALTOGETHER HUMBLE

1b.) By His humility He reaches out to me

(vs 4) *and Love is kind;*

This is the ability to turn around and look at your antagonist in the face with a real and true - genuinely kindness toward them.

It is turning of the moment - into a display of grace and gentleness.
This Love takes the injury and response in kindness.

James 1:12

Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

It was said of Abraham Lincoln:
*“He never forgot to appreciate a kindness done to him
and equality could not remember a wrong.”*

Jesus lived this Love out in the face of Judas Iscariot.

Luke 22:48

But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Consider The Question – “Are You Sure You Know What You’re Doing?”

*Jesus never stops reaching out to me.
Am I that way with people – no!*

HE IS ALTOGETHER HUMBLE

1c.) By His humility He needs nothing from me

(vs 4) **Love** does not **envy**;

Love and envy cannot co-exist.

Wherever envy is - there is a lack of love. To envy is to desire what another person has with the intent to take it or steal it from them at their peril or loss or pain.

John 2:23-25

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. **:24** But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, **:25** and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

Jesus Christ – While in His Flesh Was Fully Content to Trust His Father
God’s Love produces Contentment.

Envy generates a fever within that burns for something.

With all that Jesus did for others, He never once asked the others for anything.

Each of our human needs become an opportunity for others to show, express, and live out the Love of God.

*Jesus has never taken anything from me.
He has only given to me – even when He removed things or people – and
always for my good.*

HE IS ALTOGETHER HUMBLE

1d.) By His humility He came to be with me

(vs 4) **Love** does not **parade itself**,

God's Love is not interested in hearing applause from others.

His Love never seeks to stand out or to be noticed.

In a Word;

“Jesus Never Showed Off”

“When a man begins to boast about himself he is immediately displaying his own emptiness.” - Allen Redpath

Matthew 9:35-36

Then **Jesus went about all the cities and villages**, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. **:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them**, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Hey boyz, the ministry is happening now. I'm going to be famous.

HE IS ALTOGETHER HUMBLE

1e.) By His humility He did everything for me

(vs 4) **Love** is not **puffed up**;

This “Agape” Love will not show conceit or contempt toward others.

It refuses to take the “High Seat” and Chooses rather

to remain near to us and available.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. :30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”**

*Isn't it strange that the "star of the bible" the "one whom it's all about" is the one who has come from heaven to meet us.
He's the servant. He's the giver.*

This Current Economic Trouble is Interesting.
In some ways Bad and in some ways Good.

Stores Are Almost Giving Things Away.

(That's why Christmas decorations have been up since before Halloween.
The world is desperate and it's out of money. Everything is about to change)

What Will You Do? Where Will You Put Your Hope?

John 13:1-5 NLT

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come **to leave this world and return to his Father**. He now **showed the disciples the full extent of his love**. :2 It was time for supper, and the Devil had already enticed Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to carry out his plan to betray Jesus. :3 Jesus knew that **the Father had given him authority over everything** and that **he had come from God and would return to God**. :4 **So** he got up from the table, took off his robe, **wrapped a towel around his waist**, :5 and **poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he had around him.**

John 13:1-5 KJV

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end**. :2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; :3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; :4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. :5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,
Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death,
Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.
Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that *"if you would call on the name of the LORD you shall be saved."*

Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

End of Study

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