**Redefining Love: *A Textual Study Of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8***

Quarter 1- Danville Rd. church of Christ- Wednesday Nights

* Jan 6th – Introduction
* Jan 13th – Love Is Patient
* Jan 20th – Love Is Kind
* Jan 27th – Love Is Not Jealous
* Feb 3rd – Love Does Not Brag & Is Not Arrogant
* Feb 10th – Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly
* Feb 17th – Love Does Not Seek Its Own & Is Not Provoked
* Feb 24th – Love Does Not Take Into Account Wrongs Suffered
* Mar 3rd- Love Rejoices Not In Unrighteousness, But Truth
* Mar 10th – Love Bears & Endures All Things
* Mar 17th – Love Believes & Hopes All Things
* Mar 24th – Love Never Fails
* Mar 31st – Review

**Lesson 1- Why Study Love?**

**1. What do the following verses teach us about love? Is studying love important?**

* Matt 22:36-40
* 1 Cor 13:1-3
* 1 John 4:7-8
* 1 Cor 13:13
* Col 3:14

**2. Are the following statements a correct understanding of what love is?**

* Love is what makes me feel good- 1 John 4:8
* Love is a happily ever after- Ephesians 5
* Love means never having to say you’re sorry- Ephesians 4:2

**3. There are a few different Greek words used for love. What do they mean?**

* “Philios” – John 21:15-17
* “Storge” – Rom 1:31; 2 Tim 3:3.
* “Eros” – not in bible; Portrayed in Song of Solomon
* “Agape” – John 3:16, 1 Cor 13:4-8

**Lesson 2- Love Is Patient**

1. What is patience? What does the King James Version say instead of patience?
2. The same way God is love, is God patience also? (2 Pet 3:9; 3-4)
3. Study Luke 22:24 and John 13:4-5. Describe the patience of Jesus.
4. Why does patient love win people? See the following verses to prove your point.
	1. **Acts 10:25-26**; **2 Pet 1:1a**
	2. **1 Tim 1:15-16**
	3. **Mark 15:39**
	4. **Luke 23:39-42**
5. Why is love called the better way? 1 Cor 12:31; Col 1:11
6. What would you say to someone who said “If God exists, and is so loving and patient, why is there so much pain and suffering? (Hint think patience)

**Lesson 3- Love Is Kind**

1. The word “kind” as used in 1 Cor 13:4 is the Greek word “chréstos”, and it means to be what?
2. Why do love, patience and kindness go together? (Gal 5:22; Eph 4:32) If patience is passive what is kindness? Eccl 4:9; Psalm 105
3. Is God kindness? What does His kindness intend to do? Rom 2:4; Acts 14:17; Eph 2:6-7; Titus 3:4-5
4. Read Luke 14:12-14. Describe the kindness of Jesus. Why is it better to show kindness to the poor? Proverbs 11:16-17
5. Is kindness benevolence? Why or why not? 2 Cor 9:13-14
6. Is kindness always fun? Psalm 141:5; Rom 12:20

**Lesson 4- Love Is Not Jealous**

1. Our word jealous comes from the Latin \*zelosus, from Late Latin zelus zeal (Root word is “zeal” which means “to burn with intense fire.” Is this jealously always a bad thing? Exodus 20:5-6
2. Why do we get jealous in everyday life? In other words what are factors that cause jealousy? James 3:16; 4:1-2; Gen 4; Gen 16; Gen 37
3. What is the main factor in determining if jealousy is Godly?
	1. Rom. 10:2; Gal. 1:14; Phil. 3:6
4. What is the opposite of jealousy? How might Romans 12:12-15 and Hebrews 13:5 help us to overcome it?
5. What are some consequences of jealously? Prov 6:34; 14:30; 27:4; Song of Solomon 8:6
6. How would you answer “If love is not jealous why is God”?

**Lesson 5- Love Does Not Brag & Is Not Arrogant**

1. In Dan 4, Nebuchadnezzar is the great ruler of the world, the ruler of Babylon, the greatest kingdom and most ornate city the world had ever known – Dan 4:29 – “…he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.” What would he have seen from his vantage point? What does he say in verse 30?
2. 1 Cor 13:5 contains 2 statements about pride that reveal how it is expressed. The second statement is the pride, and translations will more accurately portray this with the phrase “puffed up”. But the first statement is the expression of being inwardly puffed up, the boasting and bragging that accompanies ego.
3. What is pride according to the following verses?
	1. **1 Cor 4:7a** – “For who regards you as superior?”
	2. **1 Cor 4:7b** – “What do you have that you did not receive?”
	3. **1 Cor 4:7b** – “And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”
4. How does pride interrupt peace and love. **2 Cor 13:5a** Think competition.
5. If we don’t humble ourselves before God, what will He do? 1 Peter 5:6 Why is getting to know God so important in this process? John 5:44
6. How does love counteract pride? **Phil 2:3-4**

**Lesson 6- Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly**

1. What is “unbecomingly”? The Greek word used here is “aschémoneó”, and if you look closely you’ll see the word “schema” right there in the middle.
2. Where does it come from?
	1. **Matt 4:3,5** – “If You are the Son of God…”
	2. **Prov 10:23** – “To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom.”
	3. **Prov 18:1** – “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.”
3. There are cultural norms relative to the society we live in, things that are expected of decent people to be respectable, considerate, and honorable. Does this apply here? 1 Cor 10:23
4. Do we consider personal scruples? Rom 14:20; 1 Cor 10:33
5. Do we consider wisdom? Not everything is about answering the question, “Is this sinful?” We must also ask, “Is this wise?” 1 Pet 3:15 How do we approach others when we teach?

**Lesson 7-**  **Love Does Not Seek Its Own & Is Not Provoked**

1. The word seek means “intense searching and investigating” How was seeking its own an issue in Corinth?
	1. 1 Cor 1 - 3
	2. 1 Cor 4
	3. 1 Cor 6
	4. 1 Cor 11
	5. 1 Cor 12
2. Selfishness disguises itself as…
	1. Wordsmith- Matt 22:15-16
	2. Attorney- Tit 3:10-11
	3. “Eros” Love- 2 Sam 13:15
3. God does not seek his own. What does this mean? Num 23:19; Psa 50:10-12
4. How did Jesus did not seek His own.
	1. In His attitude toward the Father- John 12:49, John 5:30
	2. In His attitude toward people- Matt 20:28, Phil 2:6-8
5. Putting on a selfless attitude that loves others at the expense of oneself will cause me to completely redefine my life for the better. Describe each of these…
	1. Redefines what completes us **Col 2:10a**
	2. Redefines every relationship we are in- **Phil 2:3-4**
	3. Redefines “rights” and “liberties”- **1 Cor 10:23**

**Lesson 8- Love Does Not Take Into Account Wrongs Suffered**

1. What Is “Take Into Account”? **Rom 4:8**, **2 Cor 5:19**, **Phil 4:8**
2. How is this like resentment? Psalm 32:1-2 Discuss the terrible prices of resentment.
	1. Hurts Me Physically **Prov 17:22**
	2. Deceives Me **1 Sam 18:10-11**
	3. Destroys My Family- **Col 3:19**, **Col 3:21**
	4. Destroys My Ability To Forgive- **Psa 73:21-22**
3. What are some reasons we are resentful? Elaborate on these below
	1. We Feel Superior To The One We Resent
	2. To Indulge In Its Rehearsal
	3. Self-mutilation
4. Below are listed four steps for getting rid of resentment. Which of the four will be the hardest? How can we implement these?
	1. Write It Down
	2. Work It Out- 1 Peter 5:6-7
	3. Talk It Out- Ephesians 4:26
	4. Give It Up- Ephesians 4:31

**Lesson 9- Love Rejoices Not In Unrighteousness, But Truth**

1. There is an interesting word in the German language that we don’t have in the English language, though the concept is the same in all languages. Schadenfreude is the German word which describes our malicious enjoyment of the mishaps or misfortunes of others. What is another word in our culture for this?
2. Discuss what gloating is. Is it sinful? Why?
	1. Isa 63:9a
	2. Job 31:29
	3. Prov 24:17
	4. Luke 18:10-14
3. Anything that covers up sin or seeks to justify wrongdoing is the polar opposite of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 2 Samuel 18:33
4. A great indicator of whether or not we are walking in love is to examine what gives us pleasure. Why can love not rejoice without truth?
5. Listed below are three things must happen for us to have love that rejoices in truth. How do we achieve each of these?
	1. A True Transformation- Eph 4:22-24, Rom 13:12, Col 3:9-10
	2. We See Others As God Sees Them- Luke 6:42
	3. We See Ourselves As God Sees Us- Heb 4:12-13

**Lesson 10- Love Bears & Endures All Things**

1. The Greek word for “bear” is “stegó”. This word literally means “a roof” and when you see the word “roof” in the NT this is the word used. How does genuine love both cover and conceal? 1 Cor 9:12, 1 Thes. 3:1, 1 Thes. 3:5
2. How does genuine love cover to conceal?
	1. Prov 11:13
	2. Prov 17:9
	3. Prov 10:12
	4. 1 Pet 4:8
3. How does genuine love cover to protect?
	1. 2 Thes 3:3
	2. Psa 121:7
4. The Greek word for “believes” is the word “pisteuó” and it means “to be persuaded”. But, since 1 Cor 13 is describing an attitude towards other people that is manifested by our actions, this expression “believes all things” is best understood as an attitude which assumes the best in others. Names some times we can and should do this.
5. Name some reasons this is hard to do. Proverbs 22:3; 14:15, Romans 14:13;
6. Why should we believe all things?
	1. We May Not Have All The I - Prov 18:13; Prov 18:17
	2. We’d Rather Fail In L - John 3:16
	3. We Need People To B In Us- Matt 9:9; John 1:42; John 4:39

**Lesson 11- Love Believes & Hopes All Things**

1. The Greek word for “hope” is the word “elpizó” and is used 32 times in the NT. It literally means “to expect, to trust, to anticipate, to actively wait, or to be fully confident.” What can we be be fully confident of? 1 Tim 4:10; John 5:45; Rom 15:24; Phil 2:19
2. Why are faith, hope, and love are often intimately connected in Scripture – 1 Cor 13:13; Heb 11:1
3. Hope is connected to love in several ways…discuss each of these
	1. It frees us to love- 2 Cor 3:12
	2. No one is a lost cause- Luke 22:31-32; 1 Cor 1:2
	3. Expects the best of another- Mic 7:8
4. What does endure mean? 1 Peter 2:20; 2 Tim 2:10; Matthew 10:22

1. Is God endurance? Psalm 136; Prov 17:17; Matt 24:13
2. Why is enduring sometimes painful? Heb 12:2-3

**Lesson 12- Love Never Fails**

1. In thinking about the fact that love never fails, what is the context of 1 Cor 13:8?
2. Why is love even better than the gifts of the Spirit? (v 8-12) When will these gifts cease? (Mark 16:20; Heb.2:1-4)
3. If God said He would give you one wish and the two choices were the power to predict the future, or the ability to love your enemies like Jesus, which would you choose?
4. Paul’s point was not that if you have real love you’ll always have it. His point was real love very much can die and can be abandoned, but we always need it and must always pursue it. How do we do this?
5. Read Hosea 11. Would your love have failed? Describe the depth of God’s love toward us.
6. What are some ways it will manifest in our unfailing love toward others?