

# LEARNING TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

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## 1 Cor. 13:1-7

***"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*** (NIV)

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. When we think about the way Jesus loves, there are too many aspects that we could touch on. His decision to leave His throne of glory to come and die (**Phil. 2:6-8**); His humble life; His ministry; the way He treated people, His words, His corrections; His sacrifice, His resurrection, His plan to return and thousands of other things, leave us with a task impossible to cover in a single teaching. But this well-known passage describes in a very practical way the nature of Jesus' love.

### II. WITHOUT LOVE GIFTS AND TALENTS DON'T COUNT

- A. The gifts are very exciting and definitely the display of power will always be shocking to the multitudes but according to the truth revealed in this text not even possessing gifts of tongues of all kinds; neither the gift of prophecy nor the ability to understand the secrets of God; nor does having a faith capable of moving mountains have any merit before God unless it is accompanied by true love. Even generosity or extreme sacrifice could be a source of personal pride; By the way, Jesus talked a lot about doing things in secret because our propensity to want to show off and be admired is stronger than we think. So even the most extravagant works of charity do not guarantee to have merit before God but acting in a loving way is the seal of God. **Gifts only work optimally when accompanied by love. This means that on the day of Christ we will be evaluated above all if we learned to love.**

**1 Cor. 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."**

### III. WHAT IS TRUE LOVE LIKE

1. ***It is patient (suffering, knows how to endure)***: One of the outstanding characteristics of the flesh is impatience, it wants everything now. By nature, none of us like to be interrupted when things are going well. We don't like delays in our plans. We don't like babies to cry all night. We all have a strong

longing for a life without problems and we tend to despair when our expectations are not met. In fact, lust wants the immediate satisfaction of sinful desires regardless of the consequences, but love is the opposite, it knows how to wait. **Jesus has been very patient with all of us; Although many things have taken us years, He in His long-suffering has waited for the fruit of our mature character.** If we say we love someone but exasperation and impatience is what distinguishes our attitude towards them, it shows our lack of love.

2. ***It is kind (benign):*** While patience waits, kindness acts; does something positive for the loved one. Waiting for someone to change is good, but something better is kind action while things seem the same.
3. ***It has no envy (fervently covets);*** love does not move with envy, the idea is that love does not see the improvement of another as a competition or as a frustration but as a blessing for the one it loves. It is interesting that the tenth commandment points to this very thing (**Ex. 20:17**) ***'Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife... or anything else that belongs to him.'*** The opposite is that love rejoices in the prosperity or growth of the other (**3 Jn. 2**).
4. ***Is not boastful or proud (boastful, boastful):*** We all love to be made big; we like to be admired. We like it when people see our successes and don't notice our failures. So we have developed strategies to minimize our failures and maximize our successes. This can be done openly by speaking with a kind of carefree smugness. There are also more subtle and acceptable ways to express our pride, like taking the conversation back and forth to ourselves by constantly talking about our hurt or sadness, and how bad things have been for us. Self-pity and boasting are both forms of pride.

**So love doesn't talk much about itself and doesn't take pride in its achievements or worry too much about its injuries.** Love is directed towards others, it is not self consumed. Which means that if we are going to love, this massive yearning in our hearts must die. If love is humble and other-oriented, then love involves dying to self. The self that loves glory, praises itself, seeks attention, complains, pouts, and feels sorry for itself has to die. That is why Jesus said: ***"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it is left alone"*** (**Jn. 12:24**).

5. ***It is not offensive (does not do anything wrong, does not behave rudely, is not rude).*** The idea is that love does not act dishonorably, indecently or rudely. When our flesh is irritated, what comes out of our lips and attitudes is often offensive and hurts those around us. Repairing this damage is not easy. The opposite is speaking nicely. When you are loving, you do not treat other people in a way that hurts their dignity, on the contrary, you say what edifies and dignifies others.

**Eph. 4:29 "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."**

6. ***It is not selfish*** (*it does not seek its own, it does not demand that things be done its way*) Our flesh wants to be cared for first, but love first seeks the good of others. Love does not put its own interests above others; You are not looking for your personal, private preference, but what may be good for other people. Love seeks joy and profit for the good of others, not only in its own gratification. He who loves seeks the good of the group, not just individual comfort.

7. ***He is not easily angered*** (*does not get irritated*): The idea is that love is not provoked to anger by anything; it is not so delicate or touchy. There are too many people who with their anger have damaged, intimidated and offended those around them, who have learned to fear them and isolate themselves from them to avoid angry encounters, but love is the opposite, that is the heart of the Father for us.

**Psal. 103:8 "The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love."**

8. ***Does not hold a grudge*** (*does not keep a record of offenses received*). Our flesh likes to remember how bad they have done to us because it gives us the excuse to be selfish, cruel and not to grow; but love does not get stuck in offenses but is quick to forgive; can overlook offenses. So is the Lord with us.

**Jer. 31:34b "...And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."**

9. ***It does not delight in wickedness but rather rejoices with the truth***. Our flesh is vindictive and wants others to never finish paying their debt to us, but love is not like that. Our flesh longs to win the argument, no matter if it does so unfairly, but love finds its joy in the fact that God's truth triumphs, even if it is to the detriment of itself. Love does not delight in the misfortune of others but rejoices in what is right; **it is not happy when another falls**. Love is on the side of the gospel and seeks mercy and justice for all, even those with whom one disagrees. Christian love does not wish to overlook the truth; it is brave enough to face the truth; it has nothing to hide and that is why he rejoices when the truth prevails.

10. ***"It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres"*** (*it never gives up, never loses faith, always has hopes and remains firm in all circumstances*). Love is always willing to believe the best, it does not suspect everyone, nor is it distrustful; it gives the most favorable interpretation to ambiguous actions. This does not mean that a Christian should be fooled by all the rascals, or pretend that he believes that white is black. **But in doubtful cases it will rather be too generous in his conclusions than unfairly suspect another**. Love is always ready to excuse others; throw a cloak of kindness over all their faults. Love covers unworthy things, instead of bringing them to light and magnifying them.

**1 Ped. 4:8 "Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins."**

#### **IV. WE CAN ONLY GIVE THE LOVE WE RECEIVE**

**Jn. 13:34 "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."**

- A. After considering a bit on this list we can realize that we do not really love, we only make weak attempts to genuinely love but we can repent of our lack of love and begin by receiving the love of Jesus to give it without hesitation.**
- B. In reality we do not know how to love, we are learning and we have a long way to go but we know that to the extent that we receive God's love and continue to learn it from Jesus; **The number one result (fruit) of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is going to be love (Gal. 5:22).** This true love begins not only with good intentions but with God. God is love, that is the deepest nature of Him.**
- C. The love that the world poses is selfish, fickle and capricious but this love never ceases to be and never fails. Many of us stop loving not because we do not have love, because if we have Jesus love never ends, rather because we have not overcome the wounds we affirm that we do not want to love anymore but we all can and should love even what is not lovable.**

**Rom. 5:5 "And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."**

#### **V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- 1. In what aspects of what is love do you consider that you should grow?**
- 2. How are you going to achieve it?**
- 3. What do you think is your main impediment to better loving those around you and how can you overcome it?**