

## Outline

- I. When it comes to love, we've been lied to by the world.
  - A. First Corinthians 13 reveals to us that God's kind of love "*suffereth long, and is kind*" (1 Cor. 13:4).
  - B. Many of us as Christians have a million excuses for why we don't suffer long and aren't kind.
  - C. Well, we can be delivered of that!
  - D. If we were to operate in God's kind of love, we would suffer long and be kind; we would not be critical, angry, or bitter.
  - E. "*Charity* [God's kind of love] *envieth not*" (1 Cor. 13:4, brackets mine), but are we jealous of other people?
  - F. Love "*vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up*" (1 Cor. 13:4), and love is not self-centered or self-promoting.
  - G. If we're around somebody who's bragging about everything they've done, do we feel compelled to boast so that we'll look good in comparison, so that they'll know we're somebody special too?
  - H. Many people toot their own horns.
  - I. But Proverbs 27:1-2 says:

*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. [2] Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.*
- II. God's kind of love is self-controlled and acts properly; it "*doth not behave itself unseemly*" (1 Cor. 13:5).
  - A. When a person says, "Oh, we're in love. We can't wait until we're married. Let's go ahead and have sex because we're just so in love," that's not God's kind of love.
  - B. If someone can't control themselves, they are not displaying God's kind of love (Gal. 5:22-23).

- C. Love was when Jesus hung on the cross (Rom. 5:8).
  - D. If you're going to abuse, hurt, and take advantage of another person, it's not love; it's lust.
- III. Love "*seeketh not her own*" (1 Cor. 13:5).
- A. Many people today are selfish and self-centered.
  - B. I heard someone say that America is no longer a society; we're all individuals.
  - C. There's no longer a society where we get along and cooperate with one another; now it's all about "my rights."
- IV. Most of what we're looking at right now in our study together may be totally new to you, or if you've heard this before, you might have rejected it and thought, *I've got to put myself first*.
- A. And then you wonder why you aren't receiving God's best.
  - B. You're resisting God and have submitted to the flesh.
  - C. It's supposed to be the other way around: submit to God, and resist the world, the flesh, and the devil (James 4:7).
- V. God's kind of love never fails:
- [Charity] is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [8] Charity never faileth.*
- 1 Corinthians 13:5b-8a, brackets mine
- A. Yet there are people today saying, "I've taken all I can take. I can't bear anymore. I can't believe that things are going to work out anymore. I've lost my hope. I can't endure anymore."
  - B. All they've done is admit that they aren't operating in God's kind of love.
  - C. His love flowing to and through us can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things.

## Living in God's Best

---

- VI. Most of us haven't even set walking in God's kind of love as a goal.
  - A. We excuse ourselves, thinking, *Well, I'm only human.*
  - B. We're not only human; one-third of us is wall-to-wall Holy Spirit.
  - C. We can start living by the power of God.

## Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* How has the world lied to you about love?  

---

---

---
2. \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love “*suffereth long, and is kind.*” (1 Cor. 13:4).
3. If you are critical, angry, or bitter—instead of suffering long and being kind—you are not what?
  - A. Going to get any pie
  - B. Operating in God’s kind of love
  - C. Eligible for a promotion
  - D. Satisfied until you eat or sleep
  - E. Apologetic for your behavior
4. True or false: God’s kind of love envies sometimes.
5. According to Proverbs 27:1-2, you should “\_\_\_\_\_ *thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.* [2] *Let \_\_\_\_\_ man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.*”
6. *Discussion question:* What is an example of God’s kind of love having self-control and acting properly?  

---

---

---
7. According to 1 Corinthians 13:5, God’s kind of love “*doth \_\_\_\_\_ behave itself unseemly.*”
  - A. Commonly
  - B. Sometimes
  - C. Always
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

8. If someone can't control themselves, they are not displaying \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 5:22-23).

9. *Discussion question:* Why is it that Jesus hanging on the cross is true love (Rom. 5:8)?

---

---

---

10. To abuse, hurt, and take advantage of another person is not love; it's what?

---

---

---

11. True or false: According to 1 Corinthians 13:5, love is all about "my rights."

12. True or false: If you think, *I've got to put myself first*, you aren't receiving God's best.

13. According to James 4:7, you're supposed to submit to God and resist what?

- A. The past, the present, and the future
- B. Your spirit, your soul, and your body
- C. The world, the flesh, and the devil
- D. Your family, your friends, and your neighbors
- E. The good, the bad, and the ugly

14. God's love flowing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things.

15. *Discussion question:* How is walking in God's love going to become your goal?

---

---

---

## Living in God's Best

---

16. You're not only human; one-third of you is what?

---

---

---

## Scriptures

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

PROVERBS 27:1-2

Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. [2] Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

ROMANS 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

JAMES 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.