

April 11, 2021
I Corinthians 12: 31b-13:1-13 *The Excellence Of Love*
Part 1 “Noisy Gongs & Clanging Cymbals” Vv 1-7

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This chapter is widely love, quoted, and most often totally divorced from its context. Mysteries in the Bible refer to truths which men could never discover without the special revelation of God. *Paige Patterson*

The love spoken of here is agape love. This is the deep abiding affection of God and Jesus for each other and for us (**I John 4:9**). This type of love is also used of Christians in their relationship with one another. This is more intense and deeper in meaning than philo, brotherly love and is very distinct from eros, meaning sensual or sexual love. Christians are to love, because they belong to God, and “God is love” (**I John 4:8**). *W. Harold Mare*

Patience (makrothymia) is the capacity to be wronged and not retaliate. *David K. Lowery*

“The four qualities mentioned in verse 7 are hyperbole, exaggerations to make a point. Paul has made it clear that love rejects jealousy, bragging, arrogance, unseemliness, selfishness, anger, resentment, and unrighteousness. It does not bear, believe, hope, or endure lies, false teaching, or anything else that is not of God. By all **things** Paul is speaking of all things acceptable in God’s righteousness and will, of everything within the Lord’s divine tolerance.” *John MacArthur*.

Rejoices with the truth, righteousness is predicated on God’s truth. Love cannot tolerate wrong doctrine.

“At first glance it may seem strange to contrast not rejoicing in unrighteousness with rejoicing in the truth. But the truth Paul is speaking about here is not simply factual truth. He is speaking of God’s truth, God’s revealed Word. Righteousness is predicated on God’s truth and cannot exist apart from it. Love always rejoices in God’s truth and never with falsehood or false teaching. Love cannot tolerate wrong doctrine. It makes no sense to say, ‘It doesn’t make a great difference if people don’t agree with us about doctrine. What matters is that we love them.’ That is the basic view of what is commonly called the ecumenical movement. But if we love others it will matter a great deal to us whether or not what they believe is right or wrong. What they believe affects their souls, their eternal destinies, and their representation of God’s will, and therefore should be of the highest concern to us. It also affects the souls and destinies of those whom they influence.” *John MacArthur*

APPLICATION:

In our passage today biblical qualities of love have been set forth in both negative and positive terms, what to do and what not to do as you flesh out your Christian walk. Motive is of utmost importance as one lives out one’s faith. As is clearly seen from our text a person can do all the right things for all the wrong reasons and sin against God and others doing them. Be careful how you love, do all things from a sincere heart and for the glory of God.