

Biblical Believing
2017-09-03
1 Cor 13:7

1 Corinthians 13:4-7b

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things,

Nothing more loveless than eagerness to believe worst about others.

- Not mean anticipating something difficult coming due to bad decisions.
- It's when not like what person did/not do so when you're unsure of facts you quickly choose to believe wrong/worst thing.....including judging motives.
 - i.e. scribes toward Jesus, Job's friends, political opposition.

Love always covers worst and then ALWAYS eager to believe best. ESV, NIV, NLT 1 Cor 13:7, Phil 1:9-10

- Believes: to have faith in, upon, or with respect to a person or thing, by implication, to entrust. Noun often translated "faith"
 - 3 synonyms: believe, trust, faith.

Love is never license to uncritically accept all we are told.

- Don't believe false info/lies but when unclear/ambiguous, don't be suspicious or doubt another's character/motives.....even if their actions offended you.
 - Love believes other person innocent until proven guilty.

Even if proven guilty: love covers the sin and then still believes the best about them

- That's how Jesus loves....He knows all sins/failures yet believes best about us.
 - Simon/Peter = a rock. Adulterous woman = sin no more.
 - Dan = more than conqueror.

But faith is only as good as the object in which the faith is placed. Jer 17:5, Ps 118:8 & 40:4, Lk 17:5-10, Heb. 11:6

- Object of Jesus "always believing" not in "goodness" man but omnipotent Father.
 - The nature of Biblical believing/faith is rooted in who God is.
 - Always about God's sufficiency and man's insufficiency.
 - Reason God works in/thru people: love/delight for His own glory.

If the Lord is the object of our "believing" then no matter how much people fail, we can still have unlimited faith/trust in God.

- He will bring about His purposes for them, deliver from bondage (supernaturally or daily discipline/struggle), save seemingly hopelessly lost.
 - Hopeful cause Jesus Christ set us free from penalty/power of sin! Rom 8:2

Believe best & not worst about others thru complete trust & reliance on Lord.

- Be optimistic about what sovereign God will accomplish in/thru others.
 - Express that confidence to them because people tend either live up/down to expectations.

When you love somebody, even when they fail/sin you think best of them.

- You're hurt when give benefit of doubt and later you're proven wrong but suspicion and mistrust worse than gullibility.
 - If you make mistake about somebody's character, err on side of love.
 - Make the mistake of believing and trusting too much.

Loving like that impossible in own strength....especially for “glass ½ empty” person like me. *Phil 4:13, Rom 8:32, 2 Pet 1:3, Jn 15:4*

- It takes believing/trusting not in selves/others but in our omnipotent God.
 - Knowing we are His & He will enable us to love like this as we abide in Jesus Christ.