

Jesus Always Perfectly Loves 2017-10-02

1 Cor 13:4-8a

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, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Picture that takes your breath away....this is it!

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 encompasses what loving others looks like and also a breathtaking picture of the Lord's perfect unmerited love for us in Jesus Christ.
 - My feeble attempt to summarize the indescribable.
 - Jesus always perfectly loves believer/Christian.

Patiently Jesus endures our offenses/sin/frustrations and in response initiates only unmerited kindness. 1 Corinthians 13:4a, Romans 2:4, 1 Corinthians 13:6, Psalm 103:10

- Kindness that's meant to lead us to repentance and holiness.
- When by God's grace our hearts and behavior conform with the truth of God's Word, however little spiritual victories/evidences of growth are, Jesus Christ delights/rejoices in the good that He worked in/thru us.
 - Like a parent doing a task but giving the child encouragement for the accomplishment. 1 Corinthians 13:4b-5b, Matthew 20:28, Philippians 2:7-8,

Jesus Christ selflessly desires to glorify the Father and love us.

- That's why He did the will of the Father and set aside His royal robes and our humble King, the Master of all came and served us. John.13:3-8, Ephesians 2:5-11
 - He demonstrated His love for you by giving His life as a ransom for you to satisfy God's holy justice. *Gospel*

Because of Jesus Christ's loving sacrifice on the cross, the Father no longer keeps records of Christians' wrongs, sin, or guilt to use against us. 1 Corinthians 13:5c, Romans. 4:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19, Philippians 3:9

- Christian's only record is of Jesus Christ's imputed righteousness and absolute forgiveness because of unmerited mercy, grace and love toward us. Psalm 103:10-14
 - "Great exchange".....Christians' ledger/record is not of sin, but only holy righteousness of Jesus Christ.
 - The Father views Christians as righteous despite their sin.

Jesus Christ bore all our sins on the cross so there is now no condemnation for Christians. 1 Corinthians 13:7, Romans 8:1-2, Psalm 103:12

- Our just Father does not forget our sin but because of the cross He does not hold them against us.
- Nor does He broadcast, or remind you of past sins but covers your offenses against Him and proclaims who you are in Jesus Christ
 -forgiven, redeemed, loved, accepted.
- The Father believes the best about us because He sees Jesus Christ in us.
 - In essence, God's confidence is really in Himself and not in us.

Because of who Jesus Christ is for us, we are assured our faithful, omnipotent Father will fulfill ALL His promises to us in spite of our shortcomings. 1 Corinthians 13:8, 2 Corinthians 1:20-22, Lamentations 3:22

- One great promise: Jesus Christ's unconditional, self-sacrificing, enduring love will never fail, never give up, never run out on you....even into eternity.

Rejoice! Jesus always perfectly loves imperfect Christians like me and you.

- Delight in Him, love Him, worship Him, obey Him, stand in awe of Him.
- By His Spirit working in/thru you...be imperfect conduit of HIS perfect love to challenging and lost people. 1 John 4:7-11, John 15:12