

## Love is Even-Tempered 2017-07-30

### 1 Cor 13:4-5

*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*

My family likes dog/cat videos. Kitten “attacking” dog.

- Love is not irritated, provoked, upset when offended/bothered by another.
  - Love is long-tempered (patient verse 4) and even-tempered. Bridges quote: “Impatience is strong sense of annoyance or exasperation over unintentional sins of others. Irritability...describes frequency of impatience, or ease person can become impatient over slightest provocation.” Jerry Bridges

Greek: to sharpen, stimulate, rouse to anger. Literally means “irritated, upset or angry.”

- Positively: righteous provocation/indignation. Acts 17:16, Mt 21:12

Usually depicts provocation to sinful anger/frustration. Hosea 8:5 & Zech 10:3

- Text does not say “EASILY provoked”...use as excuse. 1 Cor 13:5, Jam 1:19-20
  - Provoked to take action that is not edifying to either party.
    - Especially when tired, hungry, stressed.

Blow fuse even with tiny offense > externally OR internally become angry/frustrated

- External: explosive outbursts of anger or passive aggressive behavior.
  - Outrage can ignite fast, last long, harbor ill will and hurt feelings.
- Internal: touchy hyper-sensitivity: frustrated/offended even with well-meaning.
  - Usually don’t think they are irritable because they don’t “blow up”

Results are the same: Both known/seen by others but not predictable/avoidable only dreaded. Gal 6:7-8a, Prov 14:29, 22:24-25, Lk 6:37

- others walk on eggshells, avoid talking to you and when they can’t avoid, carefully measure every word.
  - Still twists so others are the problem, or are less spiritual/virtuous.

Normal to be sensitive and feel pain.

- But for sensitivity to produce irritation, frustration, anger is not Christlike.
  - Sin against people/Lord, kills love and poisons life by robbing you of joy, peace, contentment.
    - Never be free from it as long as you deny/blame on others.

Irritability is the manifestation of self-centeredness and not walking in truth.

- We focus on rights/comfort/control and forget we are called to selflessly love like Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus Christ was constantly provoked without becoming sinfully irritated/angry.
  - God’s love is long-tempered (patient verse 4) and even-tempered

We need to walk in the truth that God is sovereign: nothing touches us that the Lord hasn’t lovingly ordained.

- That belief needs to be more than intellectual: it must be transformational.
- Recognize Jesus Christ is in control, more likely to let go of irritation.
  - See the purpose in irritations: refining so you more Christ-like so His glory is better made known in/thru you. 2 Cor 4:17-18

Irritability is like a pebble in your shoe; can negatively affect every area of your life, robbing you of joy, peace, contentment. *Jam 3:16-18, Heb 10:24, Prov 19:11, 2 Cor 10:4-5*

- confess sin of being irritable, ask for His help, take thoughts captive regarding others & the Lord.
- God take you from self-centered, irritated state to real peace, joy in Jesus Christ that overflows in joyful affection and humble service to each other.
  - Your love for others will be long-tempered (patient verse 4) & even-tempered and bring joy to you and glory to the Lord.