

Let Love Cover Another's Sin
2017-08-27
1 Cor 13:7

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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,

Princess Bride: Vissini, "Inconceivable", Inigo Montoya "Not mean what you think."

- True about meaning of "bears all things". 1 Cor 13:7

4 different qualities of love, all linked by Greek word *panta* ESV renders "all things".

- Must interpret with limitations, don't believe all things (false doctrine, lies).
 - Jesus Christ did not die for "all". Heb 7:27, 10:10
- *panta* can also be translated "always"...what love continually does. NIV
 - 4 things always possessed, practiced and expected from genuine love.
 - It always protects, always trusts, always hopes and perseveres.

Selfless love "bears all things" can mean either to come underneath something, lift it up/support it or to protect by covering.

- If 1st then same basic meaning as "endures" later in v. 7.
 - "bears" related to intensity of trial. Endure: duration of trouble.
- Here "bears" related to word for *roof*— Bear: to roof over, to cover with silence.
 - Sense of covering or enclosing to keep something undesirable from coming in.
 - Love protects by covering sin of one who hurt you. 1 Pet 4:8
- Reflection of God's incredible love toward all Christians: Lord took initiative to protect us from judgment by covering our offenses against Him (sin).
 - God doesn't ignore our sins (atonement) but there's no condemnation because Jesus Christ's imputed righteousness covers Christians. 2 Cor 5:17, Rom 8:1
 - Lord views Christians as "in Christ" not "in sin"...ledger.

To have true Christ-centered community we must let love cover another's sin. Mt 18:15, 1 Pet 2:22-23, LEFC Vision

- Not ignore sin (God doesn't do that) but not deliberately expose or emphasize sin, failures of others for selfish reasons or w/intent to harm/hurt.
 - God exposes our sin not to hurt us but because He loves us and wants our joy to be complete.
- Love always holds up without resentment for any insult, injury, and disappointment inflicted by others and goes 2nd mile to protect that person's reputation.
 - Love protects and defends character of others (especially those who have hurt you) within limits of truth (in previous verse).
- It covers others sin/faults by forgiving and not broadcasting the short-comings of others or run others down with jokes/sarcasm. Ps 141:3, 1 Pet 3:8-11, Col 3:13
 - This perhaps Paul's primary meaning for Corinthians.
 - Many times sorry I spoke. But few times sorry I kept silent.
 - Have you really forgiven if you keep bringing offense up?

Lord doesn't remind you of past sin or broadcast your sin for world to see but rather proclaims who you are in Christ.....forgiven, redeemed, loved, accepted.

- That's Christ-like love...love that sees other Christians thru lens of Gospel (who they are in Jesus Christ) and love that covers another's sin with cloak of silence.
 - That's one way God displays His love toward us and a way we can display Christ-like love to others who have offended/hurt us.