

Always Hope
2017-09-10
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, believes all things, hopes all things.

Some people are hard to love...here is a pattern to progressively love challenging people.

- When gladly give benefit of doubt but none to give, love still always hopes.
- Not wishful thinking (storm path, million \$), unreasoning/unrealistic optimism or power of positive thinking but refusal to take failure as final.
 - Love is optimistic, it keeps on hoping...not in a person but in the Lord.

Hope is being confident that our sovereign God will do all He has promised.

- Trustworthy promises have two primary components:
 - Promising party has the capacity to fulfill the promise.
 - i.e. I promise to fix the computer...I can't do it
 - God is omnipotent, sovereign Creator...Jer 32:17, Luke 1:37
 - A past record of honoring/fulfilling their promises....faithfulness
 - God has flawless record of fulfilling His promises.
 - Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and to US...
 - Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all God's promises. 2 Cor 1:20, Rom 15:8 Eph 2:12
 - God is who He says He is (foundation to always believe) and He can/will do what He says He will do (foundation to always hope).
 - Hope in Lord is well placed and secure.

We become disappointed/angry with God when we expect Him to do things He can & many times *does* do but never *promised* to do:

- keep difficult/bad things from happening, heal every illness, reverse consequences of sin/unwise decisions.
 - Find out God's promises by reading/studying the Bible. (Next week)

When the Lord does not honor clear promise in His word within our expected time frame, we wonder if God even exists, is He mad at me, He reneged, promises are for others not me.

- Joseph was a slave for 15 year, Moses 40 years in the wilderness, God was working.
 - God is sovereign, good, wise...not you and me. Job 38:4, 1 Cor 13:12

God's PROMISES surely ours because of Jesus Christ, not our performance. 1 Pet 1:20-22

- That type of Christ-centered, promise-based hope changes the way we live.
 - Live with more peace/courage knowing that because of Jesus' work and God's love/grace, though others failures/brokenness may be great, it's never final. Ps 31:24;
 - Hope not in them but for them in Jesus Christ.

- Walk by faith especially when don't see “light at end of tunnel”. Rom 8: 24-25, Heb 11:1, Prov 13:12, Ps 38:15; 42:11
 - Hope does not rest on our understanding, but in our omnipotent, faithful God’s goodness and promises. Is 55:8-9

Love is characterized by consistent hope for others in spite of their shortcomings.

- Ultimately that hope is in God....that He will accomplish all His will for them and in the process fulfill all His promises to us and them.