

## Unconditional Enduring Love 2017-09-24

### 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.*

Endurance is pinnacle of Christ-like love for others.

- Love bears all hurts/wounds/offenses and covers them with silence.
  - Then chooses to believe the very best about offender and is never cynical or suspicious in spite of wounds.
- When believing is betrayed, love still hopes because God is still God.
  - When all hope seems lost, love still endures. 1 Corinthians 13:7b, Hebrews 12:2-3

“Endures” = military word meaning “to sustain assault of an enemy, to hold ground no matter cost, even unto death.”

- Implication is not minor annoyance but life & death situations.
  - Love remains constant even against horrible opposition, violence, suffering, rejection and is never TOTALLY overwhelmed.
- Love may discipline another but it never fails, never gives up, never runs out no matter what the disappointments or how many there are.

That's the type of unconditional, self-sacrificing, enduring love displayed in the gospel.

- God is determined to save a rebellious people from their sin based on His love/grace not their actions/deeds. Ephesians 2:4-5, Romans 5:6-8
  - There is no reason for the Lord to love us and yet He gave His Son as propitiation (the appeasement of God's righteous wrath) for our sins. *Gospel*

God not love for moment thru cross, then 1<sup>st</sup> or millionth time you fail/sin, walk away.

- Lord's love unconditionally endures, never fails/gives up/runs out, never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:7-8, Lamentations 3:22, Isaiah 54:10
  - You are accepted and blessed in Jesus Christ, and for all eternity you'll experience God's incredible love.
    - Jesus will never leave you or forsake you, no matter what you do.

Jesus calls us to love others in that same unconditional, enduring way.

- Jesus is the only one who can perfectly love like this so we can only walk in this kind of supernatural love if we abide in Jesus Christ.
  - So our hope is not in our strength/performance but in Holy Spirit who indwells us & can produce His love in us! 1 John 4:7-11, 16, 20-21

Most struggle to endure in loving others ....desire path of least resistance and most comfortable not the “dying to self” route. i.e. Dave

- But loving like this is commanded, and Christians have the capacity from God to love this way....it's Spirit's work, but we need to start doing it!

REALIZE: Lord chose you to be the conduit of His unconditional, enduring love in challenging and/or lost people's lives.....usually more than one.

- When on the verge of giving up, don't run away. Stand in your weakness, hurt, confusion & exhaustion, God is with you, his grace is sufficient, He will enable you to persevere against overwhelming opposition, endure all things at all cost and continue to love the offender.

Jesus Christ is our example and source for a love that endures. 1 Thessalonians 4:9, Hebrews 12:3, 1 Corinthians 13:8

- His unconditional, enduring love never fails, never gives up, never runs out on you....even into eternity.