



Love! ...1Corinthians 13:1-7

"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, endures all things.." ...1Corinthians 13:4-7

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. **Let all that you do be done in love.** ...1Corinthians 16:13-14

- **PASSIVITY is holding back your strength for self-preservation.**
- **AGGRESSION is expressing your strength for self-gratification.**
- **LOVE is leveraging your strength for others through self-sacrifice.**

From the Word

1. The Necessity of Love...

...1Corinthians 13:1-3

2. Describing and Applying Love...

...1Corinthians 13:4-7

3. The Necessity of Love...

...1Corinthians 13:8-13

God is the very source and existence of Love. When we Love, we reflect Jesus, and are living in obedience to God. The following is God's definition of Love. Read each one and place an "X" beside each statement from **1Corinthians 13:4-8** that is **true** about you...

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • ___ I am Patient | • ___ I am Not Resentful |
| • ___ I am Kind | • ___ I do Not Rejoice at Wrongdoing |
| • ___ I do Not Envy | • ___ I Rejoice with the Truth |
| • ___ I do Not Boast | • ___ I Bear All Things |
| • ___ I am Not Arrogant | • ___ I Believe All Things |
| • ___ I am Not Rude | • ___ I Hope All Things |
| • ___ I do Not Insist on my Own Way | • ___ I will Endure All Things |
| • ___ I am Not Irritable | • ___ I will Never Gives Up or Fail |

1. For each statement above that you **did not** place an "X", describe **WHY** that area is a struggle for you...
2. For each statement that you **did not** place an "X", describe **what needs to change in YOU**, so that you are **reflecting God in your life through the expression of love toward others...**

Child or Man?... Our relationships with others are primarily based and directly affected by how we speak, how we think, and how we rationalize the things we do. **READ 1Corinthians 13:11** together in your Group, then talk about the following Questions...

1. The **words** you say and the **way** you say things can be either childish or mature. How do you commonly **speak** to your wife, your children, loved ones, friends, and others in your life?

• **In a childish way...or as a wise and mature man? How would you like to see yourself grow in the way you speak to others?**

2. How you **think** about others can be either childish or mature. We do have a choice as to the direction our thoughts go and how we either *justify* or *correct* our way of thinking. How is your way of **thinking** affecting the relationships you have with your wife, your children, loved ones, friends, and others in your life?

• **Do you allow childish emotions to control your thinking, or apply mature Godly wisdom in your thought process?**

• **How would you like to see yourself grow in the way you think about others?**

3. The way you **reason**, **understand**, or **rationalize** the things you do and the choices you make can be either childish or mature. It can serve to justify and give excuses for unloving and wrongful behavior or treatment of others, especially our loved ones. How does the way you **reason**, **understand**, or **rationalize** the things you do and the choices you make affect the relationships you have with your wife, your children, loved ones, friends, and others in your life?

• **Do you allow childish reasoning to control your response, or apply mature Godly wisdom in your treatment of others...especially those close to you?**

• **How would you like to see yourself grow in the way you think about others?**

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)