

Title : Love IS Patient and Kind (Sermon #2)

Text: I Cor. 13:4-8

I Corinthians 13. We are taling about LOVE. The love chapter. God's kind off love. Not man's. We discussed, last Sunday, the first three verses. So, today, I want to ~~start with~~ ^{Look at} verse 4. *But Lets' read Vs 1-8*

(Read Vs 4-8)

To keep thy in cult

Let's pray

Our Father we need to know your love. Some of us long to experiece your love. It seems so many things suffer because we lack your love. Marriages suffer because their is no love. Families suffer because there is no love between parents and children. Friends suffer because we really do need each others love and yet the love that you discribe is not there. It seems, Father, that the worlds kind off love hurts and hinders. But your love always builds and encourages and sets us free. Your love is so warm and wonderful and sets us free. And your love is always there no matter what the test or trail. Our father, we thank you today for your love. And please forgive us for trying to love in the flesh. Teach us today to love as you would have us love. And we will be careful to give you all the glory as we pray in the precious name of Jesus our Saviour.....Amen.

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Those 4 verses are divided into three sections. I didn't divid them. The Bible did. There are two positive statements in verse 4 that tell you what love is. There are no two words in the English language or any other language that can tell you what God's love is; like those two ^{word} It is patient. It is kind.

Then following that Paul gives you 8 negative statements. It is not this It is not that. And so forth. The reason being that we all get confused with nature human reactions thinking that that is love. And so Paul is saying that there are several things that love is not.

Love is patient and love is kind. And there are 8 things that love is not.

And then Paul concludes in Vs 7 with four things about love as it reacts to things, not people. It says that it bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. So, vs 7 is talking about how love reacts to various circumstances.

So, today, I would like us to look at just the first two. Love is patient. And love is kind. To know those is to know God's love.

Because knowing God's love is a life style. And I have already mentioned that principle. The key verse to this 13th CHAPTER is Vs 31 of chapter 12. "A MORE EXCELLENT WAY." Not simplyly A moment...not simplyly AN act. We are all so satisfied with the temporary. But we are looking over the long haul here. A WAY OF LIFE.

So, I am asking you. Do you live LOVE? IS YOUR WAY OF LIFE THE WAY OF LOVE? Last Sunday we saw that the way of love is necessary for all christian ministry. If you don't have it, Paul says that you will become like ~~sounding brass~~ ^{a NOISY gong} and a clanging cymbal. He said that if you don't have ^{Love} you are nothing. If you don't have it, it profits you nothing. Those first three verses telling us that love is necessary ^{for all christians} Now, in verses 4 to 7 Paul is going to tell us how it is different. DIFFERENT FROM NATURAL HUMAN BEHAVIOUR.

You will not find love, dear friends, in yourself. You will find it in God. You will find love as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. You will find that the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit of God. You and I need to be controlled by God. In order to love like He says. You cannot love by His style without Him. That is where we go wrong. Without ^{Jesus} Him, John 15:5 says, we are nothing.....zero....We cannot produce his love without His help.

So, let's start by looking at those first two phrases. I want you to see that love is different in its response to people. Because patience and kindness deals with how you deal with people. So, I want to look at those two phrase.

Now, I don't know what you thing about when someone mentions "PATIENCE", but I think of the freeway...INTERSTATE 80...Traffic jams - Boy do I need patience!

Now, that is not really the word that is used here. There is a word in the Bible that refers to patience toward things and circumstances and trials. But that is not the word used here.

When I think of "kindness" I sort of think of the Boy Scouts. You know! I think of helping an older person across the street in the middle of traffic. You know, real male shovenest sytle. I think that is *Meaning Andness* kind.

Or, opening the door for someone. Kindness! Oh, isn't it wonderful? But, again, you are going to discover that "kindness" God's style is maybe a little different then you thought.

So, let's just start with "love is patient." Literally the word "patience" means to "take a long time to boil." *I Like That - Take A Long Time To Boil*

I don't know about you but I find that certain people can really tick you off. I mean, you just think of their name and you start to boil. Do you know what I mean? Sure you do. You are all smiling. You know people like that. It is easy to get angrey over them. But, yet, God's love is patient. And the word means "taking a long time to boil."

Now, really the word "boil is the word "passion." Taking a long time to be passionite, even. You see, sometimes love is best known by what it doesn't do then by what it does do. Love is holding back is the idea of the world.

Some times people who are involved in immorality say, "Oh, we feel in love. And we were so close."

Oh, No, you didn't. Not God's love. Because God's love even holds back. It controsls its own passion. That is God's love. It is patient. It is long suffering. It doesn't get angrey. It doesn't get ticked off.

In the O.T. it is translated "slow to angry." Taking a long time to boil. And some thing else about this word. It is in the present tense. God doesn't says to just love here and love there. He ~~now~~ is saying that it is continually, *IT IS A WAY OF LIFE* It is a constant thing in your life. ARE YOU PATIENT? ARE YOU?

Now, let me give you some examples... *To Illustrate The Meaning*

(1) A farmer waiting for fruit. James 5 ^{v57} says, "be paitientn unto the coming of the Lord. Like the farmer who waits for the crop.

He knows he has to wait for the early and the later rain. So, he says be patient, therefore, and don't complain and murrer against one another.

James tells me something about being patient. ^{God's Love IS Working IN YOUR} ~~If one has real love from God,~~

^{Life,} complaining, argument, contention is gone. It is not there anymore. Don't complain, don't argue, don't judge, one another. Be patient, be long suffering toward one another. And how long should we do that? Until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, the farmer is an illustration. ^{James 5:7-9}

(2) There is also an interesting illustration over in Acts 26:3. Paul is standing before King Agrippa. And Paul says to Agrippa "I beg you to listen to me patiently." Listen, dear friends, ^{we} you don't have love unless ^{we} you listen to folks. That is what the Bible says. LISTEN.. Paul begged a pagan king to listen to him with patience. In other words, let me finish, even though you are going to throw me back in jail, let me finish telling you what I want to tell you. LOVE LISTENS TO PEOPLE. LOVE IS PATIENT.

Many times we say, "I don't care what you say. I am not going to listen to you." Is that love? That is not love. Love listens.

(3) Here is another illustration. Turn to Matthew 18. I like this one. Matthew chapter 18. In this passage Peter came to Jesus. And in Vs 21 he said, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother? Seven times?"

And Jesus answered in a way that surprised Peter. Jesus said, "No, seventy times seven."

And then Jesus gave him a story. A story about a king who had a servant. And the servant owed him some money. But he couldn't pay it. And so he ask the King to be patient and give him some time to pay his debt.

And the king forgave him. He showed his patience and even forgave ^{his} ~~his~~ debt. And then the servant had another friend who owed him some money. Only he didn't treat him so fare. Let's look at it. Matthew 18 verse 26..

"The slave therefore"..This is the slave coming to the king. ..'

(Read Vs 26-30.....~~Now look at Vs 34...Read Vs 34-35~~)

If you are patient...you are forgiving. You forgive people even though they have many sins and weaknesses and faults in their life. THE LOVE OF GOD IS PATIENT. IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO BOIL. ^{IT Forgives}

Mail 24:36 ff

4 u Here is another illustration. ~~Just to have you think about it.~~ THE DAYS OF NOAH! The Bible says that that generation was disobedient, yet, God was patient toward them. Do you know how long He was patient? 120 years.

Those folks in that time listened to Noah preach for 120 years. Can you imagine listening to one preacher for 120 years? Some of you say, "We have listened to you for 6 years. ~~Wow!~~ ^{And} that is enough."

Imagine! 120 years. And you know they didn't respond. They all died in the flood. And yet, God said that he was patient. He endured their wickedness. The Bible says that the earth was filled with corruption and violence and immorality. And yet, God endured it. He was patient for 120 years.

How patient are ^{we} you? 120 years worth? *Love is patient*

5c u Here is another illustration. The example of Paul. Turn to I Timothy 1. I Timothy chapter 1. Are ^{we} you really patient? Loving toward others?

Paul deserved judgement from God. He knew it. He was a murderer. He took the name of the Lord in vain. He did everything wrong. And he knew it. And yet, Vs 15, he records this about himself. And I love this.

I Timothy chapter 1 verse 15 says.....(Read Vs 15-16). ~~stop with word~~
Patience)

~~Perfect patience. As an example of those who would believe in Him for eternal life.~~ Do you know what this passage is saying? It is saying that God is taking a long time to boil towards you until you get saved. Aren't you glad God was patient toward you until you got saved? *Hay! I Am*
~~God's patience.~~

Paul said, "I deserved his judgement. But God saved me, the chief of sinners, to demonstrate his perfect patience.

6c *OK, one finally*
Here is another example. This is good. God's patience toward Israel. Moses is up on the mountain. He is in God's presence. He is receiving the 10 commandments. Do you know what God said to him? He said, "Moses, I am going to tell you about myself that will help you through the wilderness. I am a God that is slow to anger, forgiving, compassionate, ^{!!} ..Moses heard that on the mountain. God is patient, slow to anger. Hay that is great!

A little bit later, as our story goes on, Numbers chapter 14, the children of Israel are angry, they are complaining, and God says, "Moses, move aside, I am going to wip THEM all out."

Moses said, "God, I would like to remaind you of something that you told me a long time ago. You said that you were slow to anger, and that you would forgive." And the Bible says that that was a challenge to Moses. And of cours God did forgive. And it happened because Moses prayed concerning the character of God. God! you are slow to anger and forgiving.

Now, think about that for a moment. The children of Israel, all their rebellion, all thier disobedience, totally unworthy of God's love. And yet, in a moment of time Moses says, "You are slow to anger, you are forgiving, you are loving, ~~you have got to seive this God.~~" AND GOD DID IT!

What am I trying to say? I am trying to say, dear friends, that ~~the~~ ^{Love is} patience of ^{Love} God really endures some pretty alfull things.

~~How~~ ^{How} ~~Now~~, about ~~us~~ ^{us}? How easily do ~~you~~ ^{we} give up? How easy do ~~you~~ ^{we} quite on people? And say, "That is the last straw. That did it. It is all over."

OH! Love is patient. God is slow to anger. PRAISE THE LORD FOR IT. OR, SOME OF US WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SAVED.

) God has been patient toward wicked men ^{and women} Romans 9: 22 says "He endures with patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction."

People who have never received Christ and are going to Hell, the Bible says, "God endures them. He is long suffering or patient."

People ask all the time. "How, come God let's sin go on? Why doesn't He deal with it?" And the answer to that question. HIS PATIENCE. Aren't you glade? I trust you are. God is very patient.

) Here is another illustration. In 2 Peter 3:9 it says, "The Lord is ~~slow~~ ^{NOT} slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance."

God is patient. Aren't you glade. He has been patient with ~~you~~ ^{us}. Are ~~you~~ ^{we} patient with others?

IF YOU ARE operating on God's Love, as a way of life.

~~testing~~

Well, let me summarize. If ~~you are patient~~, you are slow to anger. You are willing to listen. You are merciful. You don't give up on people. ~~if you are really patient~~. And, you are also forgiving. You are able to endure the faults and the weaknesses of others. Slow to anger means that you are going to rest in God's plan and knowledge of all things. Love is Patient

Now, let me show you why that is so important. Let me get you back on the freeway again. You are on your way to work and you are seating in the great parking lot at the maze on hyway 880. And you are getting a little impatient. Do you know why you are impatient?

Well, for one reason you don't know whether you are going to be late for work or not. RIGHT?

But did you ever stop and think that God knows whether you are going to be late or not. REALLY! THINK ABOUT IT. Here you are on the freeway. And you are locked in traffic. And you say, "Man, I am going to be late to work." And you are worrying.

But, just stop and think..Whether you are going to be late or not, God already knows. RIGHT?

You say, "Oh, great then I don't need to be impatient anymore. Isn't it wonderful how good it feels already.

You are in a traffic jam. And God knows whether or not you are going to be late. Well, praise the Lord. If I am late, I am late. If I am not, I'm not O.K. I handled that.

But, now you have another problem. You are not sure how your boss is going to react to the fact that you are late.

So, now you are impatient concerning the reaction of your boss. And you don't know how to handle that.

But, then you get to thinking. No matter how he reacts, the Lord already knows, you see. Hay! that is great. So, that solves that worry.

But, then you are not sure whether or not you are going to get fired because you are late.

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And on and on it goes. You know, our problem is that we don't have the knowledge of God. We don't see things as He see them. He already knows how everything is going to turn out. THAT IS BECAUSE HE IS PATIENT. He is patient to fulfill his plan.

Now watch this? There is a word in the Greek language that refers to patience toward things. And it is never used of God. Not once. Now, God is patient towards people. But, never things. DO YOU KNOW WHY?

He doesn't have any need to be. He is running everything. He started everything. Everything is working by his control. And he knows how everything is going to turn out. SO, WHY DO YOU NEED PATIENCE IF YOU KNEW EVERYTHING?

God doesn't need patience. But, he does have patience toward people. Now, you and I need patience toward people and patience toward things. But, in order to be patient toward people, you and I have got to rest in the PLAN AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

Because many times we are upset and unloving because we can't wait for God to work out His plan. How often I have seen that in marriage problems. We give up so easily. And we reveal that we do not have the strength of the love of God.

Dear friends, God's love is going to stay there. It will be there though thick and thin. It is going to rest in a God who in His plan and in His purpose will reveal clearly what his will is. And it will not react ahead of it. It will rest in the Lord. LOVE IS PATIENT....Are you?

(2B) LET'S TALK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT THE KINDNESS OF GOD. What does it mean to be kind? It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Let's review them: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,...Both, patience and kindness are fruit of the Holy Spirit. And they are both in the present tense. Be continually kind. Make it a way of life. Constantly patient...constantly kind.

But what does it mean. The root word means "to be ~~useful~~ Usefull, benefical. Are ^{we} you benefical? Are ^{we} you useful to people?

Let's look at some examples.....

✓ Turn in your Bibles to Jerimiah chapter 52. And I want to show you a very strange example of kindness. Jeremiah chapter 52.

Now, Israel is in Babylonian. And king Já-hō-i-a-kim has been in jail for 37 years. Now, ^{Israel} they went into captivity under king Nebuchadnezzar. But another king has become ruler in Babylonian. His name is evil Mair- o- dock. Ja-ho-i-a-kim 37 years in prison.

Now, look at Jeremiah chapter 52 verse 31: (Read 31-32..stop with the word kindly)....That is our same word used in 1 Corinthians 13. LOVE IS KIND.

Do you know what it means to be kind? Follow the verse...(read vs 32-34) Now, that is what I call being kind.

Here is a pagan king who treats the king of Judah in this way. And he does it for no other reason ^{than} ~~that~~ the fact that he is being kind.

2C O.K. There is another ^{Example of the} way ~~that~~ that word "kindness", is being used in the Bible. It is used of foods that are health or tasty. The Geeks used it all the time. That spoke of a meal. And they said that it was kind.

I think you and I can identify with that. We eat something that wasn't to good and we say, "that wasn't very kind to my stomach."

What they mean is "useful, benefical to me." They used it of foods.

at 2C Here is another illustration. They had jars or wine skins. And they put wine in it. And they called the jar..."fit to use." if it protected the wine.

Again, are you kind. Are you fit to use..protective...Interesting, isn't it?.....

3C Here is another illustration. Turn to Luke chapter 5. It was used of old wine that was better. Or, ^{Not} good enough. Luke chapter 5 .

I like this story. Juesus said that you should never put new wine into old wine skins. The reason is because after it furments it will break those old wine skins. They are not capable of holding it.

Vs 38.."But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new;"...

Now, I have never experienced this. But I understand that it is true. After you have had the old wine, you are not even in condition to taste the new wine. Do you know what I mean? It is a very practical principle.

And so the guy will say, "The old is good enough." But the amazing thing to those who study the Bible is to find that root word "kind" there. It says, "the old is kind to you." "It is good enough." It is usable. It is not the best like the new wine. But it is usable. Very interesting.

(4C) Another example. Loving your enemies. Loving your enemies is being kind. Look at chapter 6 verse 31 of Luke. Some folks call this the golden rule.....Vs 31 says....(Read Vs 31-35) .

Now, did you notice that? "Kind to ungrateful and evil men."

Now, let me ask you. Are you loving and kind? Are you? If you are, according to the Bible even when someone doesn't respond, when they are ungrateful, totally unthankful, you will still lend to them, excepting nothing in return. ... Now, that hurts a little, doesn't it?

How can we do that? Only with God's love. God's love is really kind.

(5C) One more illustration just to make the point very clear. Turn to Matthew chapter 11. One of the most beautiful illustrations of God's kindness Matthew 11 beginning with Vs 28....(Read Vs 28-30..stop at word 'easy')

Now, dear friends, that word "easy" is our word "kind." Same word in I Cor. 13:4. "My yoke is kind, and my load is light."

Now, let me make sure you understand this. ~~Here~~ *In* the ancient times you have two oxes. One is experienced. And one isn't. And you have a wooden yoke. And on the experienced ox you tie the straps very tight. Only the experienced ox bears the load. The purpose in bring the ^{*inexperienced*} other ox along side ^{*the experienced*} is to teach him how to plow. You loosely tie the straps. But he doesn't bear any of the load.

The Lord Jesus is the experienced ox. He is bearing the load. And he says "take my yoke upon you. Walk along side and learn of me. And you will find rest. Because my yoke is what?.....EASY..It is kind..

The whole point of this is that it doesn't burden you down. Cast ~~your~~^{your} burdens on the Lord and he will sustain you. Cast all of ~~your~~^{your} cares on Him for he cares for you.

What am I trying to say? Are ~~you~~^{we} loving? ~~do~~^{or} do ~~you~~^{we} burden people? Love that is kind does not burden people down. Love that is kind tries to help them. It causes you to learn to bear others burdens. And so fulfill the law of Christ.

What a tremendous point on what it means to be a christian. Love is kind.

Now, let me summarize all that we have said about kindness. If you are kind, you don't burden others. If you are kind, you will respond with good. No matter how they respond to you. And of course that is where it is really tough. Because if people are not responding to you like you wanted, then you believe that you can't love them. And that only reveals that God's love is different in its responds from normal human reaction. God's love is kind. It will do that which is good. It will, also, do that which is usefull. It isn't self centered. It isn't doing something because it is beneficial to you. But you really want to help someone else. That is God's kindness. It is also forgiving. Both the patience and kindness of God are rooted in forgiveness. You cannot forgive others unless you are patient. You cannot forgive them unless you are kind.

God forgives us . Can we not forgive others. ?

Ephesians 4:32 says "And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

And kindness does not seek to get even with someone who uses you. And it is also based upon what is morally right. In ancient times the word "kindness referred to a moral and righteous person. And I believe you can understand why. Because in God's Word that which is sin always hurts. It does not benefit you. It is not useful. It always hurts your life whether you recognize it or not. So, ~~that the~~ love that is kind, never hurts.

DO WE NEED GOD'S LOVE? Oh, yes, we do. We need it ^{so} ~~our~~ our ministry will not be effective. In fact, ^{so} our life will not be effective. ~~AND~~ ^{AND} WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES WHEN GOD'S LOVE IS WORKING?

We will be patient and we will be kind.

You know, dear friends, ~~the love of God~~ ^{This kind of love} only comes from God. Only when we give our hearts and lives to Jesus, can we love ~~with this~~ ^{This way} love. Only when we become Christians can we love like god wants us to love. You know, if you have never given your life to Jesus, ^{or} I pray that you will do so today. That right now, you would ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and ~~to~~ ^{to} come into your life.

Then as a believer you will practices as a way of life...patience and kindness. WHY? Because Love is Patient...And Love is kind...

Let's close in prayer

Our father teach us to be patient and kind. To be slow to anger. To do that which is useful and helpful to others. Father, only you can do this in our lives. We are so self-centered. We want everything our own way. We are very impatient. Always wanting you do do things right now. But, Father, we know that love is different. When we love you, we can love others. When we junderstand your patience, we can be patient with others. When we understand your kindness toward us, we can be kind to others. And Lord, I know that there are those who need to come to you today. We pray for their salvation in Jesus Christ.....Amen.