

BUILDING A BETTER WAY, PART 1

1 Corinthians 13:4

In the original language, verses 4-7 is a list of 15 _____ : *agape* love is not so much feeling as action
All of the verbs in vv.4-7 are present tense (continuous action): these are actions we take _____

I. LOVE _____ LONG

- A. Literally this verb means long-_____ or slow to anger, primarily with regard to people
- B. This aspect of *agape* love is difficult because it is our _____ that reveal what we really are
- C. *Agape* love does not _____; the Greeks saw longsuffering as weakness, a negative trait
- D. _____ is the model for this trait: He is slow to anger; His longsuffering gives opportunity for repentance
- E. Jesus also exemplified this trait when He let men reject Him, scourge Him and _____ Him

II. LOVE IS _____

- A. A better translation might be, “love _____ kind”; Paul took a common adjective and invented a verb
- B. Perhaps the best translation is, “love _____”; Rom.3 teaches that this trait is not normal for humans
- C. Again, God is the ultimate illustration of care: our _____ flows from the kindness or care of God
- D. Perhaps the best human illustration of this care is found in Jesus’ story of the _____
 - 1) He was _____ to the feelings & needs of the beaten, broken man he encountered on the road
 - 2) He cared enough to be _____: often when we are called to care, it will seem to be by chance
 - 3) We must also suspend _____ and meet needs even when we think a person is wrong
 - 4) *Agape* requires us to use our time and energy and _____ to meet the needs of those we love

III. LOVE DOES NOT _____

- A. “Envy” = to burn or to _____: in a positive context, to boil over with enthusiasm or burn with energy
- B. In a negative context like 1 Cor.13:4 it means to burn with envy or to be passionately _____
- C. The 8 negatives included in this description of *agape* no doubt focus on the carnal _____
- D. At its worst, jealousy says: ““If I can’t have what they have, then I don’t want _____ to have it either.”
- E. Many stories in the OT reveal the lengths to which jealousy takes us: _____, Joseph’s brothers
- F. When we truly have another’s best interests at heart, such jealousy can never get to _____

IV. LOVE DOES NOT _____ ITSELF

- A. A more straightforward translation is: “Love does not _____”: bragging is the flip side of jealousy
- B. Bragging was obviously a problem in the First Church of _____: it was filled with one-up-man-ship
- C. According to Paul’s description of Jesus in Phil.2, Jesus _____ Himself even to the point of death
- D. *Agape* love focuses on building up the object of love—focusing on their _____ rather than our own

CONCLUSION: HOW DO WE BUILD THIS LOVE INTO OUR LIVES?

- 1) _____ and Repent—Right Now
- 2) Ask and _____ —Constantly
- 3) _____ and Do—In the Moment