

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
CHARACTERISTICS OF CHARITY (OR LOVE DEFINED)

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

- 1. True Love Suffers Long or is Longsuffering! (13:4a)**
It is forbearing and slow to lose patience! It has an attitude of grace towards others! Love does not demonstrate irritation or reflect anger! Consider the attitude of love demonstrated by Christ who is the personification of true love!
 - a. He hated sin but loved sinners. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
 - b. His harshest speech was to the religious legalists. (Cf Luke 11:39-44)
 - c. He acted harshly to those who defiled the temple. (Cf John 2:13-17)
 - d. Believers are admonished, *"be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down on your wrath."* (Ephesians 4:26)
- 2. True Love Is Kind! (13:4b)**
It looks for ways to be constructive with acts of grace!
It acts benevolently and shows oneself useful!
- 3. True Love Envieth Not! (13:4c)**
There is no jealousy or spite involved in any way!
Envy looks out for self; Love looks out for others!
- 4. True Love Vaunteth Not Itself! (13:4d)**
It is no "windbag!" It does not boast! It is not egotistical and is not anxious to impress!
- 5. True Love Is Not Puffed Up! (13:4e)**
There is no inner pride that desires to inflate self at the expense of others!
It does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance!
- 6. True Love Does Not Behave Itself Unseemly! (13:5a)**
It is not dishonorable! It acts in its proper place! It doesn't act unbecoming or unsuitable! It is not indecent in actions!
- 7. True Love Seeketh Not Her Own! (13:5b)**
It does not pursue selfish advantage! It doesn't look out for one's own personal welfare at the expense of others! It seeks the highest good for the object loved!

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- 8. True Love Is Not Easily Provoked! (13:5c)**
It is not touchy! It is not hypersensitive! It does not take things too personally!
- 9. True Love Thinketh No Evil! (13:5d)**
It does not keep account of evil! It doesn't continually review wrongs!
There is no negative approach! It doesn't hold a grudge or think the worst!
- 10. True Love Rejoices Not In Iniquity! (13:6a)**
It does not gloat over the wickedness of other people! It doesn't use others' evils to justify personal weakness!
- 11. True Love Rejoices In Truth! (13:6b)**
This is the opposite of rejoicing in iniquity! It praises God when truth prevails! Love desires to go God's way—God's way is the way of truth!
- 12. True Love Bears All Things! (13:7a)**
It keeps things confidential! It does not gossip about inconsistencies in the lives of others! It endures those things patiently!
- 13. True Love Believes All Things! (13:7b)**
There is a full development of faith! It trusts other people and gives them the benefit of doubt! It is eager to believe the best about others!
- 14. True Love Hopeth All Things! (13:7c)**
It has great expectation of the future! It has a positive peace and confidence in God and the ways of God!
- 15. True Love Endures All Things! (13:7d)**
It is stabilized so as to be relaxed under pressure! It does not cease when problems come! It endures all trials with a loving spirit!
- 16. True Love Never Fails! (13:8a)**
 - a. The word for *"never fails"* is extra strong!
 - b. It speaks of an actor who is never hissed off the stage!
He always does a good job!