

## The Greatest of These – Love Gives

1 Timothy 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient...

- The Greek word comes from two words meaning, “long-tempered.”
- Patience is active, not passive
- We tend to see patience as sitting around, passively responding, but this word is active, even proactive.

#### • **Patience reveals our \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- Romans 8:9 But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
- Our impatience may point more to a need in our lives for surrender than a need in the other person’s life for change.

#### • **Patience reveals our belief in God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

Job 42:2 I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

#### • **Patience reveals our understanding of our own \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Because patience is a fruit of the Spirit, impatience is a fruit of the flesh.
- 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am.

- **Patience reveals our confidence God is always \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Philippians 1:6 *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind

- Psalm 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
- Greek word means useful.

- **Kindness is a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- **Kindness is a \_\_\_\_\_.**

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

- **Kindness is a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...

- Ralph Waldon Emerson: "You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." —*Ralph Waldo Emerson*
- Kindness should be a reaction, but it should also be an intention.
- Homework: Go home and make a list of 100 things you can do to be kind to others and start doing them – Your Kindness Plan

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.