

Foundational Love

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)**

Love is:

Love is patient and kind. (vs.4)

Love is descriptive and prescriptive.

- Love has a particular characteristic (patience)
- Love has a particular movement (kindness)

Love is Not:

Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out... (vs. 5-6)

Love is void of negative attributes.

Love Does:

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. **(vs. 7)**

Love is sticky; it never quits.

The ABC's of love.

ACCEPTS you just the way you are.

BELIEVES you are valuable.

CARES when you hurt.

DESIRES what is best for you.

EASES the burdens you carry.

FORGIVES you of all offenses.

Going deeper on your own: This week Pastor Rusty challenged us to do a reset on the foundational elements of our love for one another. Use 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a guide for self-evaluation in the areas that are most in need of improvement to aid in the growth of your relationships with your spouse, friends, co-workers or even a family member. Make a list of what love is and what love isn't and rate yourself in each area. Then have someone you trust rate you in the same areas and compare. Don't be discouraged if you are not where you need to be in a particular area. Be inspired to take the steps needed to better fulfill the call of love that God wants us to show to one another. The good news is that God is not done with us yet, *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."* Philippians 1:6 (NLT).