

# agape

(ἀγάπη)

THE ENDURANCE OF LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

Ted Voltmer - May 28, 2023

**THE BIG IDEA:** God will never stop loving me so I should never stop loving you!

**READ 1 COR. 13:4-7:**

“**Love is patient**, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, **it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**”

**1. Search the Word:** For the characteristics of Love we are looking at this week (highlighted in the passage above), describe it’s opposite (some will be obvious!):

**LOVE IS:**

Patient

Is not easily angered

Keeps no record of wrongs

Rejoices with the truth

Always protects

Always trusts

Always hopes

Always perseveres

**THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE IS:**

Impatient, irritable...

**2.** In what ways has God shown you patience lately? How does realizing that God is patient with you help you become more patient towards others? As you think about the week ahead, when do you think your patience will be tested, and what can you do today to prepare for that?

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**3.** Enduring love is not easily angered – it has a “long fuse”! Pastor Ted challenged us to write down the name of one person who seems to “push your buttons” and pray every day this week for an opportunity to love that person in a way that puts their needs ahead of their own. Take a minute to do that now.

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4. Enduring love protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres. As you think about your closest relationships, which of these traits is the most challenging for you to show toward others? Why is that?

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### **PRAYER**

Use the prompts below to guide your individual prayer time, as well as prayer with your group. We encourage groups to sub-group for prayer time (smaller groups of men and women).

#### **PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:**

In prayer this week, ask God to reveal any areas in your life where you are not representing what agape love is, based upon 1 Cor. 13:4-7. Record what the Holy Spirit reveals to you in the space below. Then, ask God for the grace and power to grow in your love for others in the body of Christ, based on this passage.

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Identify someone in the body of Christ that you can demonstrate agape love to this week. Write their name below, and commit to not only praying for them but also showing them your love in a specific way.

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#### **GROUP PRAYER TIME:**

Share what the Holy Spirit revealed in your prayer time this week, and then spend time praying for one another, for God to further develop these Godly character traits of love and what it does.

Who have you been praying for this week? As a group, pray for that person.

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