

ENDURING LOVE

Love has a skewed reputation in our world. It is a word often used flippantly to describe interactions between humans whose aim is to take and receive what makes them feel good in the immediate. When it ceases to bring pleasure or perceived outcomes, it moves on to the next target of “love.” This self-focus causes this man-inspired love to lack fidelity and fortitude even though it uses words like “forever.” On the other hand...

1 Corinthians 13

7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends...

Paul’s discourse on love challenges the Christians in Corinth, who were caught in the pervasive Greek mindset that subscribed to and proliferated false ideas about love. As a result, Paul dissuades them from their woke ideas about love and points them to the truth of agape love. Throughout, Paul describes “God-love” as an active force that also lives in God’s people.

Within his concluding thoughts, Paul summarizes agape love as what it does. Love looks for the best and forgives what is not. Agape love optimistically believes in the one who is loved. True love trusts, and when things are not the best, it hopes for transformation. Finally, it holds on when things are difficult.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Because agape love, which originated with God, was embedded into man’s created life and modeled to creation by the Lord, it is inherently eternal. Recognizing this, we see that love isn’t the wishy-washy, self-serving nonsense the world brokers. Rather, it outlasts everything. As a result, we are called to love in the same way.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Colossians 3:12-13

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Does your love bear, believe, hope, and endure? Keep this question in mind as you love this week and throughout your life. Go and love just as Christ has loved you!

Eyes up,
Ryan