

1 Peter Series

Lesson #131

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Characteristics of Love

1 Peter 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

A photograph of a church steeple silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The scene is framed by a dark blue border.

1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

1 Pet. 4:8, “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover [hide, conceal] a multitude of sins.’ ”

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ἐκτενής; *ektenēs, ektenes (ekteinō)*, properly, *stretched out*; figuratively, *resolute, tenacious, unflinching, unwavering, earnest, passionate* (an intense enthusiasm for something, not passionate in the sense of an outburst of emotion), with integrity cf., 1 Pet. 1:22

1 Pet. 1:22, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart (with integrity of soul),”

John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:17, “These things I command you, that you love one another.”

What the Bible Teaches About Christian Love



Characteristics of Love

1 Cor. 13:1–7

1 Cor. 13:1, “Though^{3rd} I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.”

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**ἀγάπη *agapē* nom fem
sing love; covers all
categories; emphasizes
more of a mental attitude
love, rather than the
friendship emphasis in
philos.**

**Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,”**

Love denotes volitional acts of regard, respect, concern for the welfare of others.

Neg: The absence of mental attitude sins

Pos: Giving, caring for, and service

1 Cor. 13:2, “And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”



1 Cor. 13:3, “And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

**1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind;
love does not envy; love does not parade
itself, is not puffed up;”**

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μακροθυμία *makrothumia*; long suffering, patience, steadfastness; to remain tranquil and calm while waiting, to endure provocation without complaint. The idea here is also to not seek revenge, retribution, or justification when wronged. This is opposite to Greek thought which put the self first.

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

1 Thess. 5:14, “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

James 5:7, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

James 5:8, “You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

χρηστεύομαι *chrēsteuomai*, show kindness; *chrystos*, a cognate noun, means something easy, or to be morally good and benevolent. Emphasizes a positive reaching out or being useful or helpful to someone else.

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

ζηλόω *zēloō*, to be zealous; in the negative sense, to be jealous, envious, to have ill-will toward another.

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James 3:16, “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

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ζηλόω *zēloō*, to be zealous; in the negative sense, to be jealous, envious, to have ill-will toward another.

James 4:2, “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

περπερεύομαι; *perpereuomai*; does not brag, or speak emptily of its own accomplishments.

1 Cor. 13:4, “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;”

φυσιόω; *fusioō*, to be puffed up or conceited, haughty, proud, not inflating one’s own importance; to the conceit of *gnosis* in 8:1; the basic problem of the Corinthians.

1 Cor. 13:5, “does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;”

ἀσχημονέω; *aschēmoneō*, plus the negative, to be disgraced or shamed, love does not disgrace or shame its object, or behave in a rude manner or ill-mannered impropriety.

1 Cor. 13:5, “does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;”

ζητέω *zēteō*, seek; plus the negative; self absorption, to put itself first; is not selfish, insisting on its own way.

1 Cor. 13:5, “does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;”

παροξύνω *paroxyno*, to be easily angered, upset, or provoked, irritated. To be irritable with the object of love.

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Acts 17:16, “Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.”

1 Cor. 13:5, “does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;”

1 Cor. 13:6, “does not rejoice in iniquity [unrighteousness], but rejoices in the truth;”

ἀδικία *adikía* sin, unrighteousness

**ἀλήθεια *alētheia*, truth, sometimes
faithfulness**

1 Cor. 13:7, “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

στέγω; *stegō*; To cover. In the New Testament, to cover over in silence.

καλύπτω *kaluptō* pres act indic 3 sing to cover; 1 Pet. 4:8

Kind
(generous, forgiving, gracious)

Steadfast

Not envious

Rejoicing
in integrity

Not conceited

Not
imputing
evil

Not arrogant

Not rejoicing
in wrongdoing

Not rude

Not self-absorbed

Not easily angered

LOVE

**1 Pet. 4:9, “Be hospitable to one another
without grumbling.”**

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φιλόξενος philoxenos, hospitable

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1 Tim. 3:2, “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;”

Titus 1:8, “but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,”

1 Pet. 4:9, “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

φιλόξενος philoxenos, hospitable

γογγυσμός; *gongusmos* grumbling

Phil. 2:14, “Do all things without complaining and disputing,”

1 Pet. 4:10, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”