

## Definitions & Applications of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Read the definitions and determine 2 or 3 ways to live each one with the person you find difficult to love.

### Love...

#### Is Patient

- ♦ exhibits internal and external control in difficult circumstances (Louv & Nida).

This means that love is long suffering. It doesn't fly off the handle quickly. A long holding of the mind before it reacts passionately. It takes a long time before it bursts into flame. It is not quick to resent an injury. It doesn't have a hair trigger. Rather, it recognizes that other people will make mistakes and even sin against you. It doesn't take that personally. It doesn't let violations of my agenda become major issues. It sees irritations as minor issues. It expects children to act childish.

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#### Is Kind

- ♦ be kind, show mercy, useful

This means that love has a gracious manner towards others. It is sweet and nice. Its words are edifying, not destructive. Gentle. It overcomes evil with good (Rom. 12:14, 21).

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#### Is Not Jealous

- ♦ covet, be envious, desire.

Love is not selfish. It doesn't regard life as a zero sum game—your good means my loss. Love doesn't want everything for itself. It rejoices with those that rejoice (Rom. 12:15a). It loves the success of the loved person. It doesn't boil with jealousy.

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#### Does Not Brag And Is Not Arrogant

- ♦ bragging, boasting, trying to impress others, showiness
- ♦ proud, arrogant, puffed up

This means that love is not puffed up and proud. Love isn't focused on its own accomplishments—it listens to others and shows genuine interest in their lives. It isn't waiting for their story to end so it can top it. It rejoices in the triumphs of others. Love is humble.

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#### Does Not Act Unbecomingly

- ♦ to act disgracefully, rude, act improperly

This means that love does not behave improperly, it's not rude, and it doesn't act disgracefully. It seems that this definition covers a wide range of behavior. Love doesn't put down your children. It doesn't use sarcasm to belittle them. It doesn't overreact to their immaturity or inexperience. Its behavior isn't out of place.

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#### Does Not Seek Its Own

- ♦ seek, look for, try to obtain, demand

Love is not selfish. It puts others first (Phil. 2:3-4); it puts itself last. Love is not concerned with protecting its own stuff. It freely gives of its resources. Love doesn't look at others as existing to fill its needs.

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#### Is Not Provoked

- ♦ be upset, angered, irritated

Love doesn't get sinfully angry. It doesn't have a short fuse. Love puts people ahead of things; therefore it doesn't get upset when people destroy, misuse, or damage its things.

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**Does Not Take Into Account A Wrong Suffered**

- ♦ keep mental record, think about, calculate, charge to someone, let one's mind dwell on

Love doesn't keep a mental record of wrongs, it doesn't ponder or meditate on how it has been sinned against, and it doesn't keep a record of debits. Love doesn't bear in mind how it has been treated. Love doesn't plan on paying the offender back. Doesn't consider revenge.

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**Does Not Rejoice In Unrighteousness**

- ♦ rejoice, be glad, be delighted
- ♦ unjust deed, wickedness, wrongdoing

Love does not have *schadenfreude*. It does not rejoice in the misfortunes of others. This is the sin condemned in Proverbs 24:17-18. We shouldn't gloat over another's fall. Love hates it when a brother stumbles into sin or faces a trial.

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**Rejoices With The Truth**

- ♦ rejoice with, feel joy with, congratulate
- The opposite of the above is a person that rejoices when another embraces the truth. Love has a part in the truth.

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**Bears All Things**

- ♦ put up with annoyance or difficulty, endure
- From the Greek word that means *roof* it has the idea that love covers, protects, and forbears and/or the idea that it bears up like holding up a

roof. Could be love doesn't embarrass or share dirty laundry (cf. 1 Peter 4:8).

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**Believes All Things**

- ♦ think to be true, implies trust, faith
- Doesn't mean gullible, but believes the best about others. It puts the most favorable spin on ambiguous actions. It doesn't assume the worst before it hears the matter (Prov. 18:13, 17). It assumes the best until it is proved otherwise. Love is not suspicious.

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**Hopes All Things**

- ♦ confident hope, looking forward to
- Doesn't despair; sees the bright side of things. Hopes for the best with all people. Is positive and optimistic, trusting.

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**Endures All Things**

- ♦ resists, holds one's ground, perseveres in spite of difficulty
- Love perseveres. It sustains the assaults of others (maybe those loved) and still loves.

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