**7**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8**The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9**By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. **10**In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.**11**Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12**No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**13**By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. **14**We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. **15**Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

**16**We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **17**By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.**18**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

**19**We love, because He first loved us. **20**If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21**And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

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A most critical evidence of authentic Christian faith is found in 1 John 4:7 - “love is *from* God.” God is the origin of all true love. “God is love.” [v. 8] Love is therefore the best evidence that a person truly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_God: *“Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God”* ([1 John 4:7–8](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20John%204.7%E2%80%938)). In other words, John is speaking of a love that is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a regenerate heart. Only true Christians are capable of genuine ‘from God’ love.

Clearly, ‘from God’ love is purer from human experience and is not a carnal love, a romantic love, or even a family love. It is a supernatural love that is a *godly* love. A Greek word John used in this text for “love” was *agape* – “unique to God.” He is the sole source of it.

This kind of love cannot be conjured up by the human will.

* It’s brought in the hearts of believers by God. “*We love, because He first loved us” (*[*1 John 4:19*](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20John%204.19)*).*
* Love for God and believers is due to our being “partakers of the divine nature” ([2 Peter 1:4](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Pet%201.4)).
* Just as it is God’s nature to love, love is characteristic of His true children. *“The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us”* ([Romans 5:5](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom%205.5)).

**So where in Scripture do we find this supernatural godly love mentioned?**

**Love** from a pure heart – 1 Timothy 1:5

Pursue **love** – 1 Corinthians 14:1

Let all that you do be done in **love** – 1 Corinthians 16:14

Sincerity of your **love** – 2 Corinthians 8:8

Put on **love**, which is the perfect bond of unity – Colossians 3:14

The **love** of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit – Romans 5:5

He who **loves** his neighbor has fulfilled the law – Romans 13:8

You yourselves are taught by God to **love** one another – 1 Thessalonians 4:9

May the Lord cause you to increase and abound in **love** for one another – 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Your **love** may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment – Philippians 1:9

Make my joy complete by … maintaining the same **love** – Philippians 2:2

Let us consider how to stimulate one another to **love** and good deeds – Hebrews 10:24

Let **love** of the brethren continue – Hebrews 13:1

**But what IS this love?**

1 Corinthians 13 describes….

If I speak in the tonguesof men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2**If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3**If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**4**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5**It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**8**Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9**For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10**but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.**11**When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **12**For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. **13**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Love is Patient / Long-suffering**

* Love can be wronged and wronged and wronged, and never wants revenge.
* Long-suffering endures the injuries of others, and kindness pays them back only with good deeds.
* Long-suffering says, “I’ll take anything from those who despise me.” *Makrothumia* is a word that comes to mean *extreme patience*; a word that means *patience with people*.
* It describes the person who is extremely slow to anger, who virtually never ever gets angry, no matter how people treat that person.
* Love doesn’t retaliate because love is patient.

**Love is Kind**

* Love finds a way to extend kindness instead of vengeance, resentment, retaliation.
* Love seeks the well-being of those who harm by showing kindness.
* Kindness says, “I’ll give anything to those who despise me, to meet their need.”

The root word in the Greek is “useful.” The idea is not so much a sweet attitude, the idea is not so much a friendly disposition. Rather is this … even though one is injured, even though one is mistreated, even though one is hurt, patience is shown and actually performing “deeds of kindness” that are useful or beneficial to that person who has offended. Now, THAT is godly love!

[Matthew 11:30](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%2011.30), Jesus said, “Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for My yoke is” – what? – “easy.”

The word “easy” in the Greek is the same word translated “kindness” in 1 Corinthians 13. Jesus is simply

saying, “Join up with Me, and I’ll express to you kindness.” This is a grace that can heal the hurts of

many relationships. This is a grace that can heal the hurts in family.

**Love Does Not Envy**

Envy is a bad thing. Another word for envy is jealousy. And where there is jealousy, there is destruction. Two things that will utterly destroy a relationship are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and jealousy.

**Two kinds of jealousy -** One is superficial – “I don’t want what you have.” Deepest level – “I wish he/she didn’t have it.” Solomon called it rottenness of the bones. (Proverbs 14:30) The word literally in the Greek, originally its root word means “to boil,” it’s the inner boiling, seething, steaming over somebody else’s success, somebody else’s attractiveness, someone else’s reputation.

[Proverbs 27:4](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Prov%2027.4): “Wrath is cruel, anger is outrageous; who is able to stand before jealousy?” You can’t survive it. Envy and jealousy is a hatred that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ manifest! It will show itself with the most hurtful and damaging demonstrations of cruelty.

[James 3:14](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/James%203.14): “If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and lie against the truth.” It is absolutely inevitable that if you’re jealous, you lie. You’re in the business of tearing down, but what is ultimately happening is this - Envy destroys the *insides* of a man or woman

James 3:16: “where you have envy and strife, you have confusion and every evil work.” There it is! Every evil work spawns itself out of envy and jealousy.  The only thing that can conquer it is love. You don’t think it’s too bad to be jealous; but it’s rotten right to the core.

**Love Is Not Boastful – Love Is Not Conceited**

Now, those may seem like synonyms or parallels, but they aren’t. There’s a difference. The first statement represents the verbalizing of pride, the actual speech of pride, the actual action of pride. The second, the attitude of pride. Conceit is in the heart. Love is not always talking about its own accomplishments. Love does not speak of itself. Love is not arrogant.

The idea of bragging is to make somebody else feel like you are superior to them. And believe me, that is the opposite of love because love says I want you to feel superior, I’ll take the role of a servant. Love never brags. Love never blows its own horn. And let’s face it, nobody really likes people like that because they are loveless people. – John MacArthur

And you know, if you look at the pattern of Jesus Christ, if anybody had anything to brag about, He did. But He never did. If you study the gospel of John, list to what He said in [John 12:49](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.49), “For I have not spoken of Myself.”

* Conceit says, “I’m better than you,” and “I want everybody to know all about me,” and …
* Love says, “I wish I could know all about you.”

**Love Is Not Rude – Love Does Not Dishonor Others**

Love doesn’t behave rudely. This is such a practical thing. The verb here means “to behave in an unbecoming manner.” This is a verb, *aschēmoneō*, and it means to behave dishonorably. Love does not behave dishonorably.

* Rudeness says, “I will do what I want. How it affects you is of no importance to me.”
* To be rude is to not be generous – you may give tangibly to people, but when you speak in condescending ways, always correcting them, finding fault, showing no interest in them, demanding your way, controlling the circumstances or attempting to control people to your personal advantage, or simply being abrupt is NOT being generous with godly love.
* Dishonor means to either verbally or in our behavior, communicate dislike toward a person.

**Love Is Not Self-Seeking**

“Love seeks not its own.” This is probably the key to *everything*. Love is the opposite of self-seeking. This is the key to the whole concept of love. It is selflessness. You’re patient with people. You’re kind with people. You’re not jealous of people. You’re not angry with people. You’re not upset with people. You’re not provoked by people. You’re very tolerant with people. You’re very generous with people. You’re very gracious with people. You’re never rude to people. All of that means you’re selfless.

**Love Is Not Easily Angered – Love Is Not Provoked**

“Love is not provoked.” Love never gets irritated. Be angry over the mistreatment of the glorious name of Christ. Be angry over those who misrepresent Him. Be angry over those who teach lies in the name of Scripture. Be angry over the influence those people have on poor and blinded souls.

But when somebody offends you don’t be angry. Don’t be provoked. Don’t burst out against another person, no matter what they’ve done. Instead, pray for them. Pray for those who mistreat you.

**Love Keeps No Record of Wrongs – Love Thinks No Evil**

“Love keeps no record of wrongs.” The word literally “thinks no evil” is the Greek word *logizomai.* And that word, it’s an accountant’s word, it literally means “to keep a mathematical calculation.” It is the word that is used in a ledger of a bookkeeper. Love never keeps books on the wrongs or evil done to it. Love never keeps a running record of somebody’s offense. The idea is holding somebody accountable for some wrong or evil or injury. Love just forgives and forgets.

*Logizomai* is the very verb that is used in the New Testament to speak of the pardoning act of God. So, as God has not kept any books on our sin, so are we not to keep any books or lists on the wrongs of others. In fact, the word *logizomai* is translated in the New Testament with this English word. “Imputed.” And it is used in many passages. Romans 4:8. “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” “Blessed is the man” – in 1 Corinthians 13 language – “of whom the Lord keeps no record of evil.”God only keeps account of righteousness, never evil.

God has no\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Have you ever offended God as a Christian? I have. But you know something? He doesn’t say, “Boy, I’m sick and tired of that, Lisa, and I’m going to start writing stuff down and keep a list of all her wrongs. She needs to shape up.” No, He doesn’t say that. He keeps no account. Absolute forgiveness. That’s because He loves us. God so loves us that He doesn’t keep account of our sin, He just forgives it all and keeps on forgiving it and keeps on forgiving it and keeps on forgiving it. Why? Because we have an Advocate who is always praying for us to the Father – our Defense Attorney prays ceaselessly for us.

But resentment keeps on keeping books [accounts] about it. And eventually resentment will present those accounts in the form of written or verbal hostility. A person filled with resentment, holding a grudge and bitterness will keep mental accounts of perceived wrongs and will brood over it, churning it over in the mind as though reading a book. Resentment is a form of hatred. God is love, and God only writes one thing in His accounting book about a child of His and that is “righteous.”

**Love never makes memories out of evils.** – John MacArthur

Love sees past a person’s sin to their potential and the fact that God loves them. Love hesitates to believe any rumor or spread any rumor. Love always forgives, love never keeps account of wrong. It never gets irritated and it never is resentful. That’s love. That’s the way Jesus loved, that’s the way we’re to love.

**Love Does Not Delight In Evil – Love Rejoices Not in Iniquity**

The word “iniquity” simply means unrighteousness. It is the word that talks about sin. Love never rejoices in sin. Love has no pleasure in hearing or repeating unrighteousness. It never is happy about sin, its own or anyone else’s, because sin wounds God and certainly wounds the one who commits it and the others against whom it is committed. Why? Because …

**Love Rejoices In the Truth**. Love rejoices when the truth is lived, and love rejoices when the truth is taught.  We love to gossip about other people who, in our minds, are worse than we are. And so we rejoice in their short-comings. Gossip is self-promotion by relishing the fall of others, the iniquity of others. That’s not loving. Nothing loving about it. Love doesn’t do that. Love controls your tongue. Love prevents you from gloating over the iniquities of other people. Love finds no satisfaction in passing on somebody else’s iniquities, rehearsing somebody else’s iniquities.

**Love rejoices with the** **truth.**

The Old Testament says God hates a liar, right? God hates a liar. Love tells the truth and it rejoices to tell the truth. Love is honest. It doesn’t lie to flatter. It loves truth. Does this refer to doctrinal truth? Sure. Biblical truth? Of course. Knowing it, living it, loving it. But it’s more than that. We’re talking about behavior; we’re not talking about theology. Telling the truth builds strong relationships; telling lies destroys relationships. Sometimes the truth is encouraging and comforting and sometimes the truth is convicting and painful. But loving people always speak the truth.

**Love Bears All Things**

“Love bears all things.” The word “bear,” means “to cover with silence,” to cover with silence.

Love out of a regard and a respect and an honest concern for the real value of another person, will be reluctant to drag a scandal in front of anyone. When it says it “bears all things,” it’s not in the sense of “Oh, I’ll put up with that some more” or “I’ll endure this trial,” it means it is disposed to cover over the ugliness in someone else’s life.

You know, you can illustrate the fact that this is a normal human behavior pattern by looking at yourself and your own children. You see, depravity is always looking to find the skeleton in somebody else’s closet because it gives a sense of self-righteousness, always. Your children are a good illustration. And one of the first manifestations of their depravity is the eagerness with which they want to tell on their brothers and sisters. And that’s one thing you have to discipline out of them. Why? Because depravity is always trying to uncover somebody else so it can gain a sense of self-respect and righteousness and look good in your eyes. It's sad, but some people never grow out of that. Some people spend their whole life tattling. I always question people who talk about the errors and the faults and the sins of other people. I question whether they know the meaning of love because love throws a blanket over somebody else’s faults. That’s what the word means. [First Peter 4:8](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Pet%204.8), Peter put it this way – it’s beautiful. He said, “Love covers a multitude of sins.” Love is a big, huge blanket that runs around throwing itself over people’s faults, not exposing them. [Proverbs 10:12](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Prov%2010.12) says, “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.” Have you ever noticed how easily you dismiss the faults of those you love? Think of the person you love the most, and they do something wrong. “Ah, well, there’s so much good about them. I mean everybody makes a mistake.” Imagine that you didn’t like somebody and they do something wrong. And you want other people to know. That’s not love. Godly love dismisses the sins of the one it loves. Love will warn, love will exhort and love will rebuke and love will discipline, but love will cover, not expose. We are not the subject of heavenly gossip. God is not in the business of exposing. Ultimately, He’s in the business of covering. Rather than sit in righteous resentment and gossip with the Trinity and the angels about the sins of men, God just came to a cross, threw a mantle over man’s sin, and bore their sin in His own body.

Love is so empathetic that love will never condemn.

**Love Believes All Things**

Instead of saying, “Oh, well, probably got exactly what he or she deserved.” And “Well, she’s gone so far now, she’ll probably never change,” - love believes in the best in someone else.

It sees the wrong, it sees the weakness, and then it believes the best. Love has to believe it because love cares too much not to believe it. And what love wants so bad, it turns into faith. But when somebody goes wrong and then someone says, “Ah, they revealed their true character,” it proves you don’t love them, because love doesn’t let go like that.