



Handout April 12, 2024

## **I Corinthians 13 Love in Fellowship**

Welcome back and here we go!

It's Parking Lot Sale time! This is our single biggest community outreach. We invite people to donate, to join us, to buy from us... and we get many opportunities to pray with people in the community. Our hope is that through it all, they see and feel the love of Jesus.

Tonight you are invited into a big counseling session with me. The Notes we are using tonight are the very same ones I use for counseling, especially when counseling couples!

### ***Ephesians 5:1-2***

1) Walk in \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's read the "Love Notes".

### ***I Corinthians 13***

2) Fully accepts \_\_\_\_\_.

a. People have habits, attitudes, personalities that can clash.

3) Looks for ways to be \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Are you actively finding ways to improve?

4) It is \_\_\_\_\_.

a. We need to be able to change without frustration.

5) Doesn't pursue \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Love has good manners.

6) Does not keep account of \_\_\_\_\_.

a. No Reviewing of Wrongs

b. Doesn't Compare Self

c. Active Fellowship

d.

Coming up next week: [David Sieminski speaking](#)

Following week: ["Praying for Others" - Tom](#)

## “LOVE NOTES”

### ***Ephesians 5:1-2***

***Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.***

Love is to be the characteristic of the believer's life.

God commands believers to love everyone, even our enemies, even the most obnoxious, impossible-to-love people in our lives. The ability to love everyone in the world, even enemies, comes only as a result of Christian growth, the development of a structure in the soul which includes the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22 ff), and the development of a *Relaxed Mental Attitude* as a result of having no *mental attitude sins* toward other people.

Any Christian who is consistently growing in Christ will have a steady advance in the Christian Way of Life, along with the ability to love other people genuinely and have an honest concern for their spiritual well-being. The following statements are a *paraphrase* of the description of *impersonal love* found in **1 CORINTHIANS 13**.

Love is slow to lose patience. It doesn't demonstrate irritations or reflect anger or have a quick temper. It has fully accepted the character of the one loved.

Love looks for a way to be constructive. Love is actively creative. It is able to recognize needs. It discovers successful methods of improving or contributing to the other's life.

Love is not possessive. Love does not hold exclusive control where one is allowed little or no freedom to fulfill himself/herself apart from the one who loves him/her.

Love is not anxious to impress. Love doesn't seek to make an impression or to create an image for personal gain.

Love does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. It is not self-centered. It has the ability to change and to accept change. It is flexible. It doesn't allow, or expect, life to revolve around itself.

Love has good manners. It has respect for others which results in a set of Christ-centered standards. It has discretion. It knows what is proper and when.

Love does not pursue selfish advantage. It does not have primary concern for personal appetites or for social status; but it shows concern for needs of the one loved and families and friends involved.

Love is not touchy. Love is not hyper-sensitive or easily hurt. It does not take things personally. It is not emotionally involved with personal opinions so that to reject ideas is to reject the one giving them.

Love does not keep account of evil. Love doesn't review wrongs which have been forgiven. It does not dwell on past sins. It destroys evidence of past mistakes wherever possible.

Love doesn't gloat over the wickedness of other people.

Love doesn't compare self with others for self-justification. It doesn't use others' sin to excuse personal weaknesses.

Love is glad with all godly men/women when truth prevails.

Love is in active fellowship with dedicated Christians. It is occupied with spiritual objectives.

Love knows no limit to its forbearance.

Love has the ability to live with the inconsistencies of others. It has empathy for the problems of others.

There is no end to Love's trust. Love believes in the person loved and in the person's worth without question. It has no reason to doubt the person's integrity.

There is no fading of Love's confidence. Love is not fickle. It has perfect peace and confidence that God is primarily responsible for introducing the right partner at the right time.

Love has unlimited endurance. Love is able to outlast anything. It is able to endure all obstacles and even love in the face of unreturned love.

These are the characteristics of Christ's love for us; and we are to imitate Him in our love for others.