

A SONG OF LOVE

(PART 2)

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

The song of love is the title given to the above chosen scriptures written by Paul by the will of God to the church in Corinth, together with all those everywhere who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the previous issue partly we discussed about the components of the true love of God that was demonstrated through the sacrifice of Jesus or His death on the cross. And today, we continue to dissect this love chapter:

- 1. Love is not rude:** No one intentionally touches a hot pot; no one allows very hot water to fall on his body while bathing. No one is able to eat fuming or very hot food. To be rude is the same as the boiling water or fuming oil. No one wants to reach you; people do not come to you because they are afraid of you. You may have talents or gifts yet you cannot give to the people because there is a barrier standing like a dam, not allowing the love of God to flow. And this dam is rudeness. You can observe that in business people avoid rude salesmen. And the shops or stores, where salesladies or cashiers are always pleasant or smiling, are packed with consumers and people continue to rush in. Customers avoid rude receptionists, waiters and waitresses. Patients refuse rude doctors and they go to other clinics.
- 2. Love is not self-seeking:** You are working among a group of people in an office, factory, hospital or supermarket. You are living among your family or roommates. You are serving God in a church where there is one principle, the word of God, is honoured and taught: **“Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)** If you do things out of pride, selfishness, personal ambition or for your own good you are self seeking or conceited. And you are not acting out of true love from God.
- 3. Love is not easily angered:** Anger is the raging sea that no one can still sail on. Anger is the wind that spoils and destroys things. Anger is a personality not of power but of destruction. It has detrimental effects on man’s life and relationship with other people. Whatever is your good motive if you express or drive action with anger, or if you allow anger to be the predominant colour of your conversation you are likely defeated and have forfeited your purpose.
- 4. Love keeps no record of wrongs:** In every workplace or institution, there is a file for every worker. Each file keeps all the records related to the staff, including warning letters or record of wrongs or mistakes that he has done. And any record of fault or wrongdoing hinders promotion or commendation for that person. The same is true in the relationship among people. Whether they are your family members, spouse, relatives, friends, or brethren in the church if you keep record of mistake and bitterness in your heart against them, this prevents you to share to them the true love of God. Keeping record of wrong is like filing stones in the heart that builds mansion of hatred and anger. God does not keep record of sins instead He freely gives His love to all those who come to Him in repentance.
- 5. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth:** The true love of God through Jesus Christ does not allow you to plan things in order to destroy others. Are you planning to do

something that may negatively affect others? Remember, evil is not from God. Jesus says, **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)**

- 6. Love always protects:** You belong to a family, working in a company, a member of a church, a resident in a city, and a tenant in a building. If you have the true love of God in your heart, you are compelled to protect your family, the company, the church, the building or the city where you belong. God has placed you in that area to share to the people the security that you have in Christ Jesus.
- 7. Love always trusts:** It is good to take precautions and be wise. But over cautious makes you doubtful, suspicious, anxious, fearful, nervous, and paranoid person. If you are suspicious about your spouse what love can you give to her? If you are always fearful to do things how can you bear fruit? If you have always doubts about the people around you, then how can you work with them? Trusting others in your home and workplaces makes you more productive and caring. When you trust people around you are able to give them not only their rights but you can delegate to them duties to do. In return you receive the fruit of love, receiving favour, support and trust from others. God does not warn you against your neighbour but commands you to love them as you love yourself.
- 8. Love always hopes:** The true love of God through Jesus Christ should encourage you to be optimistic, not expecting failure or negative results but awaiting for the fulfilment of God’s promises. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead has already uprooted your obstacles and has promised you victory. God does not want you to stop doing good things or be pessimistic. **“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praise worthy, think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)**
- 9. Love always perseveres:** The true love of God through Jesus gives you the insight of the true purpose of living and supplies you with clear plans and goals in life. Perseverance is keeping the same theme of enthusiasm and pressing on firmly to reach the goal. Jesus on the day of His crucifixion was physically exhausted, tired, thirsty, hungry, and bleeding but He pursued even to death. And His suffering on the cross gives life to the sinful world. The fruit of His perseverance is the cause of our salvation. God wants you to have the same perseverance in order to reach out and give His love to others.

My Dear and Beloved: A Pharisee asked which the greatest commandment is, and **“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’.” (Matthew 22:37-38)** It is not enough for us to know the greatest commandment only by memory. Let us check the components of our love to God above all, and the description of our love to others. And if we lack on any of the points mentioned in 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, let us kneel down in prayer and ask God’s forgiveness and grace. God never withholds good gifts to His children. Let us aim to obey the greatest commandment and to receive the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift to love. God bless you.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who gave His life for my sake. Lord I repent, please cleanse me from the following sins _____ . Lord builds me in your love and fills me with your Holy Spirit and help me to love the people around me as you are loving me. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*