

Biblical Soul Care
"Love" Lesson #6
1 Corinthians 13
July 16, 2023

Purpose: To grow in our understanding of and application of what it means to love God and our fellow members of the Household of faith.

Perfection #10 and 11 "Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth." ESV 1 Corinthians 13:6

Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. (NJB)
It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth (NET)
it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; LSB

Unrighteousness (93) ([adikia](#) from **a** = negates + **dike** = right) is literally the condition of not being right, whether with God, according to the standard of His holiness and righteousness, or with man, according to the standard of what man knows to be right by his conscience. Precept Austin

Wrongdoing or unrighteousness refers to any action, any speech, any thought, any desire, or any event that is not right in the sight of God. Unrighteousness is anything contrary to God's will as it is revealed in the Bible. Mack

The word rejoice means to be joyful or glad or delighted or to find pleasure in something. In Philippians 4:4 Paul said that we are to rejoice in the Lord. That means we are to find our joy and pleasure and gladness in Christ Jesus.

So Love does not take pleasure in, delight in or find joy or gladness in wrongdoing, evil, sin or unrighteousness.

"For this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:12

"Abhor what is evil. Hold fast to what is good." Romans 12:9

"Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;" Proverbs 24:17

"He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished." Proverbs 17:5b

"and although they know the ordinance of God,
that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they
not only do the same,
but also give hearty approval to those who practice them." Romans 1:32

Examples of rejoicing in wrongdoing: (From Mack)

Love does not rejoice in personally doing what the Bible would call evil or sin.
Love does not rejoice in encouraging others to do what is wrong in the sight of God.

Love does not enjoy watching others do evil.

Love does not get pleasure out of seeing others have evil done to them.

Love avoids being abusive in any way whether it be physical, verbal, or emotional.

Love doesn't take pleasure in pornography or sexual immorality.

Love can say with Job when something unpleasant happens to someone else,

"I have not rejoiced at the ruin of him who hated me, or exulted when evil overtook him." Job 31:29

Perfection 11 is the flip side of the negative "love does not rejoice at wrongdoing" and Paul states it in the positive "Love rejoices with the truth."

Question: What truth is Paul referring to? What are we to rejoice in?

The word truth here stands opposed to iniquity, and means virtue, piety, goodness. It does not rejoice in the vices, but in the virtues of others. It is pleased, it rejoices when they do well. It is pleased when those who differ from us conduct [themselves] in any manner in such a way as to please God, and to advance their own reputation and happiness. They who are under the influence of that love rejoice that good is done, and the truth defended and advanced, whoever may be the instrument; rejoice that others are successful in their plans of doing good, though they do not act with us; rejoice that other men have a reputation well-earned for virtue and purity of life, though they may differ from us in opinion, and may be connected with a different denomination. They do not rejoice when other denominations of Christians fall into error; or when their plans are blasted; or when they are calumniated, and oppressed, and reviled. By whomsoever good is done, or wheresoever, it is to them a matter of rejoicing; and by whomsoever evil is done, or wheresoever, it is to them a matter of grief. The reason of this is, that all sin, error, and vice, will ultimately ruin the happiness of any one; and as love desires their happiness, it desires that they should walk in the ways of virtue, and is grieved when they do not. (Albert Barnes. Barnes NT Commentary)

"For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 3-4

"For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy."

"I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father."

Questions:

1. How do people sometimes excuse or justify their taking pleasure in sin or evil?

2. How often did you take pleasure in sin this last week? Is there a particular sin that you take pleasure in?

3. How do you respond when you find yourself rejoicing in iniquity?

4. What are practical ways we can rejoice in the truth?

(Love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
NASB 95

Perfection #12 (Love) "bears all things"

Love always protects NIV

Bears ([4722](#)) ([stego](#) from **stege** = a thatch or roof or covering of a building) derives its first meaning from **stege** and thus means to cover closely, to protect by covering and then, to conceal and then, by covering, to bear up under. Note that at the core of its meaning **stego** denotes an activity or state which **blocks entry from without** or exit from within.

Authentic Agape Love continually seeks to cover and protect ([1Co 13:7NIV](#) "'love always protects'") the object that is loved and for husbands this applies especially to our wives! Love protects other people. It doesn't broadcast bad news. It goes the second mile to protect another person's reputation. Love doesn't point out every flaw of the ones you love. Love doesn't criticize in public.

John MacArthur- the verb **stego**...basically means to cover or to support and therefore to protect. Love **bears all things** by protecting others from exposure, ridicule, or harm. Genuine love does not gossip or listen to gossip.

Even when a sin is certain, love tries to correct it with the least possible hurt and harm to the guilty person. Love never protects sin but is anxious to protect the sinner. Fallen human nature has the opposite inclination. There is perverse pleasure in exposing someone's faults and failures. As already mentioned, that is what makes gossip appealing. The Corinthians cared little for the feelings or welfare of fellow believers. It was every person for himself. Like the Pharisees, they paid little attention to others, except when those others were failing or sinning. Man's depravity causes him to rejoice in the depravity of others. It is that depraved pleasure that sells magazines and newspapers that cater to exposes, "true confessions," and the like. It is the same sort of pleasure that makes children tattle on brothers and sisters. Whether to feel self-righteous by exposing another's sin or to enjoy that sin vicariously, we all are tempted to take a certain kind of pleasure in the sins of others. Love has no part in that. It does not expose or exploit, gloat or condemn. It **bears**; it does not **bare**.

"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses." Proverbs 10:12

"Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends." Proverbs 17:9

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

"Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense." Proverbs 19:11

Question: Do these Scriptures mean that we should just overlook all transgressions and offenses in a person's life?

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also

may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1-2

"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20

Question: What are some principles to consider when deciding to "cover" or lay bare another's offense, sin or perceived transgression?

Discuss some thoughts from Wayne Mack on restoring someone gently from Galatians 6:1

Let's summarize: What does it mean to tell others I love you from this section on love? It means that we are telling others that we will:

1. Be long-suffering with them;
2. Be kind to them;
3. Be glad when they succeed and not be envious of them;
4. Not boast or brag about ourselves and try to impress them with our supposed importance;
5. Not be arrogant or proud in our relationship with them;
6. Not behave in a discourteous and rude way toward them;
7. Not be selfish or self-seeking in our relationship towards them;
8. Not be annoyed or irritated with them;
9. Not rejoice or get satisfaction out of unrighteousness;
10. Be mindful to rejoice in the ways that they reflect God's truth in their lives;
11. Be willing to cover the unpleasant traits and offenses and when the need to correct occurs we do it with the least amount of hurt and harm.

Paul says that love covers or bears all things. This means that on issues that are not sinful or harmful to the person or others or a violation of Biblical principle, we will put Proverbs 19:11 into practice. We will overlook. On issues that are merely a matter of preference rather than Biblical principle, we will not insist that the person conform to our preferences. Mack from "Maximum Impact.