

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

First Corinthians 13

Love and Miraculous Gifts (Part 2)

Brian R. Kenyon

In the midst of Paul's discussion about miraculous spiritual gifts, the apostle wrote about love. While these verses are often used for weddings and lessons about love, Paul's use of them was to address a particular problem. The application of love to the Corinthian's attitude toward their use of miraculous spiritual gifts would solve much of their division problems (1 Cor. 1:10-13). In this article, attention is given to the fifteen characteristics of love found in First Corinthians 13.

Positive Characteristics

While most translations translate "love" from the Greek word *agape*, the King James Version uses "charity," which denotes love in action. Consider these positive characteristics of love.

Suffers Long ("patient," NAS) (1 Cor. 13:4) means that love is slow to anger. The Greek word (*makrothumeo*) literally means "long [*makro*] tempered [*thumos*]." Love takes a long time before igniting into the flames of wrath. It has the ability to endure evil and persevere in opposition. When wrong is done to it, love endures with much meekness and patience (cf. 1 Pet. 2:23).

Kind (1 Cor. 13:4) means that love is gracious. Love is active in being good and doing good to as many as possible. It was said in the second century that Christian love was so stunning to pagans that they called Christians *chrestinai* (the noun form of "is kind"), which means "made up of mildness or kindness" (Spicq 515).

Negative Characteristics

These characteristics of love are designated negative because they have the word "not" or "no" associated with them in their translation.

Does Not Envy ("is not jealous," NAS) (1 Cor. 13:4) means that love is not jealous or envious of others (Acts 7:9; 15:2; 2 Cor. 11:2). Envy involves discontent and/or uneasiness at the sight of another's good fortune. Love, however, does not envy the prosperity or happiness of another, nor does it feel badly when another is honored or succeeds (cf. 1 Cor. 12:26).

Does Not Parade Itself ("vaunteth not itself, KJV; "does not brag," NAS; "does not ... boast," ESV) (1 Cor. 13:4) means that love is not conceited nor vainglorious. The root of this word means "wind bag" (Bauer 653). Thus, it can refer to a "braggart." Love does not thrust itself forward (in the spotlight) by boasting of its accomplishments to win the praise of men!

Not Puffed Up (“not arrogant,” NAS) (1 Cor. 13:4) means that love does not display the outward disposition of arrogant pride, vanity, or egotism (1 Cor. 4:6, 18-19; 5:2; 8:1; Col. 2:18). Love does not feel superior to others, nor does it look down on others as inferiors (cf. Phil. 2:3-8).

Does Not Behave Rudely (“does not behave itself unseemly,” KJV; “does not act unbecomingly,” NAS; “is not ... rude,” ESV) (1 Cor. 13:5) means that love does not act indecently. The Greek word (*aschemoneo*) literally means “not [a-] according to proper form [*schema*].” The opposite of this word is well-mannered, polite, and courteous. The point is that love does nothing improper or shameful.

Does Not Seek Its Own (“does not insist on its own way,” ESV) (1 Cor. 13:5) means that love is not self-serving. Among the definitions of *agape* is seeking the highest good for its object. Love is not self-seeking (cf. Jn. 15:12-13).

Not Provoked (“not irritable,” ESV) (1 Cor. 13:5) means that love does not fly into a rage, nor does it easily take offense. One commentator said of this characteristic that a person “can get dreadfully on my nerves in the exercise of what he regards as ... his particular gifts ... Love cannot alter the fact that he gets on my nerves, but ... it can rule out ... my allowing myself to be ‘provoked’ by him” (Morris [quoting Barth] 180).

Thinks No Evil (“does not take into account a wrong suffered,” NAS; “is not resentful,” ESV) (1 Cor. 13:5) means that love does not keep score of wrongs. The word “thinks” comes from a word that means to “count, reckon, calculate, take into account ... place to one’s account” (Newman 108). Love does not take account of the wrong that is done to it so that it can repay evil for evil (cf. Mt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:17).

Does Not Rejoice In Iniquity (1 Cor. 13:6) means that love is not glad when wrong-doing triumphs. Love is not happy because of sin nor because of the fact that some are lost in sin (cf. Rom. 1:32).

More Positive Characteristics

Rejoices In The Truth (“rejoices with the truth,” ASV) (1 Cor. 13:6) means that love shares truth’s joy (cf. 2 Jn. 4). “Truth,” set against “iniquity” (cf. 1 Cor. 13:6a; 2 Thes. 2:10, 12), is personified in Christ (Jn. 14:6), revealed by the word of God (Jn. 17:17), and is able to set us free from sin (Jn. 8:32). Love is not indifferent to sin.

Bears All Things (1 Cor. 13:7) means that love endures, no matter what comes against it. Love protects, or preserves, by concealing what is displeasing in another (cf. 1 Pet. 4:8).

Believes All Things (1 Cor. 13:7) means that love believes the best in others. Love gives others the benefit of the doubt by placing the best interpretation on events unless compelled by evidence to do otherwise. “This does not mean that a Christian filled with love lacks the qualities of wisdom and discernment and thus becomes the gullible dupe of every falsifier. On the contrary, love is always wise and discerning” (Kistemaker 461).

Hopes All Things (1 Cor. 13:7) means that love looks on the bright side. This is not naive optimism that ignores reality, but is confidence that no matter what happens, God will triumph. Love does not lose hope even when things seem hopeless (cf. Rom. 4:18; 8:24-25).

Endures All Things (1 Cor. 13:7) means that love tenaciously perseveres in all situations. The word translated “endures” means to hold out, stand firm. “It is the endurance of a soldier who, in the thick of battle, is undismayed ... Love is not overwhelmed, but manfully plays its part whatever the difficulty” (Morris 182).

Conclusion

We could easily substitute the name “Christ” for “love [charity, KJV]” in First Corinthians 13 to get an accurate description of the Lord’s personality. But if we inserted our name, would these characteristics of love come close to describing our personality? *AE Brian*

Works Cited

- Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 2nd rev. ed. by William F. Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
- Kistemaker, Simon J. *Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.
- Morris, Leon. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Newman, Barclay, Jr. “A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament.” Stuttgart, Germany: UBS, 1993.
- Spicq, Ceslas. *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament*. Vol. 3. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ginny Hamby, Ray Naschick, Wadi Khoury, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, Cierra Edwards (up-coming appt with neuro-surgeon in October) and Margaret Coone (spine surgery 9-4-19).

Shut In Members: Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Bob McAnally, Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., James and Ellen Shearer, Brinlee Alford, Derek Bush (Debbie Bush's son) and Tanya Irizarry (Jagie's sister-in-law).

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 17th: Men's breakfast at Jackson Ave. church of Christ in Bartow.

Saturday, August 17th: Ladies, there will be a baby shower honoring Tina "Willcut" Stout at the Eagle Lake church of Christ at 2:00 p.m. RSVP to Mariann Willcut at (863) 224-3715 by 8/10/19.

Tuesday, August 20th: Senior Saints meeting at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 a.m. There will be a security presentation by Bobby Simpson, a new project presentation and we will also make plans for the remainder of the year.

Saturday, August 24th: Parents meeting, 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. If you cannot attend, please see Vince for the information.

Sunday, August 25th: Teachers' workshop in the library at 2:30 p.m. This is for all who will be teaching/helping next quarter.

Tuesday, August 27th: FSOP Ladies' class at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 31th: Ladies are invited to a baby shower in honor of Elly Enamorado (Brian & Jagie's daughter), at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship room. Please RSVP by signing the sheet on the bulletin board. Instead of a card, bring a book for baby and write a note inside to baby and parents. Small gifts or gift cards/money are encouraged as Elly will have limited space while traveling. See Kathy Sweeney if you'd like to part of the gift card/money tree.

Response and Place Membership

Cierra Edwards requested prayer from the congregation. Ellen Shearer has requested to place membership. Let us welcome her and keep both in prayer.

Thank You

Thank you for all the love and concern shown to our family in the recent passing of our mother in law/grandmother! Your prayers, cards, words of encouragement and attendance at the funeral mean so much to us all! We were blessed to have her for 103 years and we are very blessed to have such a loving Christian family here at South Florida Ave church of Christ. Love, Paulin/Bingle families

From the Elders

The exterior door that opens into the 2-3 year old class (SE corner of the building) will be permanently closed for safety reasons. Please bring your child into the classroom through the door from the quiet room. Thank you.

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Greene, Don Greeley, Jerry Harsh, Misty and Marissa Stump, Micheal & Barbara Stump, Jennifer Waldon, Tiffany Hash and Samuel, T. Trinh, Edward Atkins, Gavin Williams, Daniel Pingree, Nigel St. Bernard, Janene Martin and Donna Harley.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Designated Elder During Services - David Anderson

Open/Close Building - Bob Pratt

David Anderson **Table** Kyle Faneuf
Jeff Bingle **Assist** Frank Hamby

Sunday, August 18, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Jim Turner
Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore
Announcements..... Matt Wilcutt
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Bobby Simpson
Sermon..... Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer..... Jim Edmonson
Greeters..... Brenda/Darlene/Estridge
Cards..... Caelen/Camron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Sermon..... Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer..... Ken Walker

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Song Leader..... David Williams
Opening Prayer..... John McShane
Closing Prayer..... Alex Parramore

August Clean-up John McShane's team (A-D)

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, August 25, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Announcements..... Matt Wilcutt
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney
Greeters..... Walker/Melissa/Debra
Cards..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jim Turner

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer..... Phil Fife

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 21 \$5,946.63
July 28 \$7,462.81
Aug 04 \$6,802.75
Aug 11 \$ 7,477.25
Contribution Average..... \$ 6,570.92



Member Spotlight

Dee Parramore



Dee was born in Manila, Philippines. As a child, she wanted to be a lawyer. Her first job was as a clerk in a pharmacy. She is currently one of the SFA church secretaries. She has also lived in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia. She likes coffee. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, painting, reading, gardening, writing devotionals, and having coffee or lunch with friends. Her most satisfying accomplishment is definitely her boys. The best advice she's been given is "Remember that you are uniquely the same as everyone else." She and her husband, Ed, have 2 sons.



Member Spotlight

Charles Paulin



Charles was born in Smithboro, Illinois (population 200). He moved to Florida many years ago. As a child, he wanted to be a truck driver. His first job was lawn mowing and auto detailing. He is a retired Publix truck driver. His favorite drink is iced tea. His favorite dessert is banana pudding. He is good at griping. In his free time, he likes to relax. His most satisfying accomplishment is rearing his children. The best advice he's been given is "Shut up and listen." He and his wife, Barbara, have 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great granddaughter.



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

Calling All Youth (and Their Parents): Our youth group is picking up great momentum in the Lord! We would love for you to join us in fellowship as the youth group (and their parents/chaperones) serve God. Come to the meeting here **August 24 @ 9:30 am**. Let's serve God together!



Youth Game Night @ the Sweeney's



Pray that members from SFA attending PTP will be renewed, refreshed, and recharged!

SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

LADIES DAY

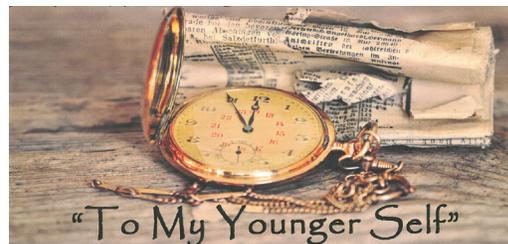
Save the date

A
B **C**

OCTOBER 5
2019

Psalm 122:1
I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Youth Seminar, Oct. 19, 2019



Make Plans Now To Attend These SFA Events!