

1 Cor 13:4-7

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

I Want to Know What Love Is, a song sung back in the eighties by a group called Foreigner. The same holds true even today as it did thousands of years ago, where people were asking, and still are, *“What is real love?”* Over the next three weeks, we will find out what the bible says that Love is based upon these verses in I Corinthians chapter 13. If I count it right, I count 15 things in these verses that love is, and isn't.

So let's look at the first thing love is:

Love suffers long

“Wait a minute, you mean there is suffering in love? I don't think I am going to like these devotionals.”

This is not like suffering with a toothache, or sitting through a girlie movie with your wife or girlfriend, that's not the type of suffering this is talking about. Maybe if we read it in the NLT it would help out.

† 1 Cor 13:4a (NLT) *Love is patient*

Alright, Patience is something we can all relate to and is something that Jesus showed us. Peter once proclaimed his undying love for Jesus, yet Jesus knew better, because Jesus knew that Peter was human and that he (Peter) would fail, no matter how Peter felt at the moment. So many times people go on feelings and not reality when it comes to love. Peter was caught up in the moment of Celebrating Passover with Jesus and the other eleven apostles, and in that moment of feeling invincible, Peter said: *“Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.”*

And we read Jesus response:

† **Luke 22:31-34** *And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”*

How many times has your spouse, someone you are dating, a family member or a close friend done or said something that made you really, really mad? Maybe so mad that you were wanting to leave him or her. Where is the patience in that?

Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him. But Jesus knew that Peter would come back to Him as well, and when he did, Jesus forgave Peter. Also Jesus never threw it in his face afterwards. Now that's patience.

"Yea, but you don't know what he or she has done to me."

You are right, I don't. But I know what Peter did to Jesus, and yet Jesus forgave Peter. Jesus was willing to wait patiently for Peter to come back to Him after he denied Jesus. This would prepare Peter for ministry as well as strengthen his relationship and walk with Jesus.

I don't know what's going on in your marriage, with the person you are dating or with your friend or even a family member, but God does and He is in control. Also notice what patience in love does.

† *"Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

But I have prayed for you it causes you to pray for that person and not condemn him or her.

God is in control, so He also sees all those things you do wrong as well, and He is patiently waiting for you to repent and return to Him or make amends with that person you have lost patience with.

† **Matthew 5:23-24** *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*