1 - Barriers To Unity: a Lack of Love

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

2 - **#1 - A Lack of Love**

**“*Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.”*** (1 Corinthians 8:1-2)

***“Let all that you do be done in love.”*** (1 Corinthians 16:14)

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**,
How does love bring about unity?

3 - **Love…**

* **Is Patient.** (“Long spirited”, Strong; “to be **patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others**; to be **mild** and slow in avenging; to be **long-suffering, slow to anger**, slow to punish 1 Cor 13:4.” Thayer; cf., 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Peter 3:9)
	+ Apply to 1 Corinthians 6:1-8?

**4 - Love…**

* **Is kind.** (“show oneself **useful**… act **benevolently**” (Strong) “properly, fit for use, **useful**; virtuous, good”; Thayer); cf., Ephesians 4:31-32; Romans 2:4; 11:22)

**5 - Love…**

* **Is not jealous**. (“The distinction lies in this, that **"envy" desires to deprive another** of what he has (note Matthew 27:18), **"jealousy" desires to have the same or the same sort of thing** for itself”; Vine; cf., Acts 7:9 & Joseph)

**6 - Love…**

* **Does not brag, or boast** (ESV) **or “parade itself”** (NKJV)
(1 Samuel 15:12; Esther 6:1-9) (Arndt and Gingrich define the root word as "a windbag” who seeks the praise and applaud of men. Matt. 6:14).

**7 - Love…**

* **Is not arrogant**.
(“Puffed up… inflated”, Strong, “to… swell up”; full of pride. 1 Corinthians 4:6;
2 Chronicles 32:24-26)

**8 - Love…**

* **Does not act unbecomingly**.
To be inappropriate in our relationships as brethren in Christ. “Behave in an ugly, indecent, unseemly… manner.” (NTWS) Even Timothy… 1 Timothy 5:1-2; Titus 2:1-10

9 - **Love…**

* **Does not seek its’ own or** **“insist on its’ own way”** (ESV) That is, one’s own best interest, profit, honor, pleasure. (1 Corinthians 10:23; Philippians 2:3-5; Romans 15:1-2)

**10 - Love…**

* **Is not provoked**. (Not easily irritated or roused to anger and always exasperated with each other. Need to get rid of the roots of bitterness. (Hebrews 12:15; Acts 8:23)
(Why are we angry? Genesis 4:6; Jonah 4:4. Yet on the other hand… Hebrews 10:24)

**11 – Love**…

* **Does not act take into account a wrong suffered.** Doesn’t keep score and fixate on the offenses of others. (Matthew 7:3-5)
	+ Rather, true forgiveness. (Psalms 86:5; 130:3; Matthew 18:35)

**12 – Love…**

* **Rejoices with truth & not unrighteousness.** (i.e., 1 Corinthians 5)
* **Where is our grief over those lost in sin?** (Luke 13:34-35; 19:41; Philippians 3:18; Acts 20:19)
* **“No greater joy…”** (3 John 4; John 3:29-30; Acts 15:3)

**13 – Love…**

**Bears all things…**

* Persevering though disappointments & discouragements w/o complaining.
Includes idea of covering or concealing. (Hebrews 10:32-36; Philippians 2:14; Proverbs 11:13; Matthew 18:15ff; 1 Peter 4:8; James 5:20)

**14 – Love…**

**Believes all things**

* **…** in those we choose to bestow our love on… expecting the best, refusing to allow suspicions to take root. Put the best construction on actions of others.(Philemon)

15 – Love…

**Hopes all things…**

* Those of faith and love are characteristically optimistic that the right thing will be done. (Philippians 1:25-26; Luke 22:31-32;
2 Corinthians 8:5; Esther 4; Ruth 3)

16 – Love…

**Endures all things…**

* **T**he ability of an army to sustain an assault. Gets back up! Keep running! (Hebrews 12:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:13;
Proverbs 24:16)

17 - **Because of Love…**

* **We have the hope of forgiveness and reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ**. (John 3:16; Romans 5:6-11; Galatians 2:20)
* **If we love Him…** (John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-5; Mark 16:15-16)
* **We can be united** as one as Jesus and the Father are one **when we learn to love as He loved us**! (John 13:34-35)