

**Nine Virtues of Divine Love – 1**  
Dr. Jay Zinn • River's Edge Church • 11/29/09

**Introduction:**

***Ephesians 4:11-13, 15-16; John 17:20-25***

Main Text: **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

Greek words for **Love**: *Eros*-Physical • *Phileo*-Emotional • *Agapeo*-Volitional

**1. The Virtue of PATIENCE - 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love *passive*)**

**Definition:** lenient, long on patience, slow to anger, tolerant of the weaknesses of others, forbears and puts up with wrongs done to self.

**Demonstration:**

- Jesus with his disciples (**Mt. 16:5-12**)
- Jesus with little children (**Mk. 10:13-16**)

**Application:**

- God always puts someone in our lives to practice patience on (at work, home, church).
- Forbearance at home with young children; forbearance at church with new converts.
- Sunday service alone doesn't build patience (*community* does!)
- Unity is the by-product of patience with each other's shortcomings.

**2. The Virtue of KINDNESS - 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love in *action*)**

**Definition:** sweet to all, never insolent or rude, useful to all, does good to all, acts benevolently to all, generous to all, does not have a sarcastic or critical spirit.

**Demonstration:**

- Jesus came to serve, not to be served (**Mt. 20:28**)
- Dorcas and her acts of kindness (**Acts 9:32-42**)
- **John Wesley's** Rule for Christian Living:  
"Do all the **Good** you can, by all the **Means** you can, in all the **Ways** you can, in all the **Places** you can, at all the **Times** you can, to all the **People** you can, as long as **Ever** you can!"
- **Paul's** Rule:  
"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (**Ga. 6:10**)

**Application:**

- **1 John 3:16-18**  
"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." NIV
- The [acts of] God's **kindness** leads men to repentance. (**Ro. 2:4**)
- The best opportunities for this are found in "community."
- So much Christianity is good but unkind (in the way of a critical spirit).

**3. The Virtue of NO ENVY - 1 Corinthians 13:4 ~ (Love in *competition*)**

**Definition:** intensely resentful or jealous of someone else's success, position, or possessions to the degree of wishing them stripped of having it.

**Demonstration:**

- Cain and Abel (**Gen. 4:1-8**)
- Saul and David (**1 Sam. 18:5-9**)
- Two harlot mothers (**1 Kings 3:16-28**)

**Application:**

- Rejoice with those who rejoice (**Rom. 12:15**)
- Rejoice with those who are honored ahead of you.
- Rejoice when others receive something you've prayed for yourself.
- Rejoice with those who rejoice over their advancement in life.
- The acts of the [flesh] sinful nature are jealousy & envy (**Ga. 5:19-21**)
- **Phil. 2:3-7**  
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."  
"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." NIV
- **1 Cor. 12:25-26**  
"...there should be no division in the body, but that its parts [members] should have **equal concern** for each other. If one [member] suffers, every [member] suffers with it; if one [member] is **honored**, every [member] rejoices with it. NIV