

Perfecting Love:
The Joy of Love

The Two Sides of Joy and Love

1 Corinthians 13:6

“We are all strings in the concert of God’s joy.”

Jakob Böhme (1575–1624)

God's kind of love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. It is utterly unselfish. This kind of love goes against our natural inclinations. It is impossible to have this love unless God helps us set aside our own natural desires so that we can love and not expect anything in return. Thus, the more we become like Christ, the more love we will show to others.

A. Love: Does Not Rejoice in Iniquity *1 Cor 13:6a*

Love never takes satisfaction from sin, whether our own sin or that of others. When we rejoice in unrighteousness we make something that is wrong appear to be right.

Isa 5:20

Examples:

1. Books, magazines and TV programs
2. News programs
3. Hoping someone will fall into sin or make a mistake
4. Gossip

An affront to God:

When we delight in sin, we are delighting in that which offends and grieves our heavenly Father. If we love God, what offends Him will offend us and what grieves Him will grieve us.

B. Love: Rejoices in Truth *1 Cor 13:6b*

1. The relationship between truth and love:
 - a- Love without truth leads to lawlessness (*rebellion*) and compromise
 - b-Truth without love leads to legalism (*judging*)
 - c-Love with truth leads to spiritual growth
Eph 4:15; 2 John 1:3
2. What truth is this is?
 - a-First it is the ‘truth’ of God’s Word—His commandment. *Psalm 119:97; 165*
 - b-We live the ‘truth’ when we love each other
Rom 13:8; Gal 5:14
3. Why is truth so important?
 - a-Love cannot tolerate what is NOT true
 - b-Absence of truth inhibits spiritual growth
 - c-Truth establishes the ground rules (boundaries) for life and love

Truth consists of having the same idea about something that God has.

Joseph Joubert (1754–1824)



Put on Love

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. **Col 3:14**

1Co 12:31

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Cor 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient [*long suffering*] and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies*, they will fail; whether *there are tongues*, they will cease; whether *there is knowledge*, it will vanish away.