

Four Things That Destroy Love



A Call to Love and Death

“When Christians differ, there is a golden opportunity to show the world how we love each other. Differences are not the end of love, they are the occasion for love.”
Francis Schaeffer

A. The Way of Godly Love *John 12:24-25*

Question: What do the ‘gifts of the Spirit,’ the ‘fruit of the Spirit,’ and ‘love’ according to 1 Cor 13:4-8 have in common?

Answer: They are ONLY authentic when I am ‘dead to self’ and ‘alive unto God.’ *Rom 6:11; Rom 12:1-2*

1. Before there is fruit or love there is death
2. Dying precedes reviving
3. Hate precedes love *John 12:25; Luke 14:26; Matt 10:39*
The key to understanding these passages is to see that Jesus is using ‘contrast’ to establish that REAL love can ONLY flow through us when God is our first love.

B. The Way of Man’s Love *1 Cor 13:4-5*

There are eight things that destroy Godly love.

The first four are rooted in pride...

1. Love does not envy (jealous)
Having no jealousy/envy means dying to the desire for unshared affection. (*It’s all about me*)
2. Love does not parade itself (brag)
Not bragging or boasting means dying to the desire to call attention to my successes. (*Defined by success*)
3. Love is not puffed up (arrogant)
Having no arrogance means dying to the desire to be ‘special’ or better than others. (*Being right at any cost*)
4. Love does not behave rudely (bad manners)
Not acting rudely means dying to the desire to express my freedom offensively. (*Feeling better at the expense of others*)

C. The Price of Love

Are we willing to pay the price of love? Love at home, love in the neighborhood, love in the body of believers? Are we willing to die? If we are willing to die to self we will bear much fruit and God’s love will flow through us.

When Jesus calls a man, he bids him come and die.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Come: Reckon yourself dead to sin and alive to love.

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.